

Hafa Adai!

CEC to soon select a new executive director. **PAGE 3**

MINA announces the 2020 Green Award recipients. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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Propst: IPI Turkish workers' visas are expiring on Jan. 30



House Committee on Gaming chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler (D-Saipan), and some colleagues talk with stranded Turkish H-2B workers of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC at their barracks Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The stranded Turkish workers of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are deeply concerned as their visas will expire on Jan. 30, according to House Committee on Gaming chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) yesterday.

Propst said in a Facebook post that, once the visas expire, these workers will be con-

See PROPST on Page 4

IPI now has casino reopening plan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Before Donald R. Browne resigned as interim chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, he provided IPI with a reopening plan of its casino in western Garapan.

Browne informed IPI director Zheng Dong

See IPI on Page 4

Browne must still appear before the federal court



Browne

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Donald Browne must still appear before the U.S. District Court

See BROWNE on Page 4

Guam gets more vaccines

» **1 more COVID-19-related fatality**

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

Guam received 7,800 more vaccines last Jan. 16, even as one more person in the U.S. territory succumbed to COVID-19 a day later, raising

See GUAM on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 19, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,484	1	7,485
Recovered	7,220	0	7,220
Active	136	1	137
Deaths	127	1	128
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			109,500

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	129	0	129
Traced via Travel Screening	103	0	103
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			153

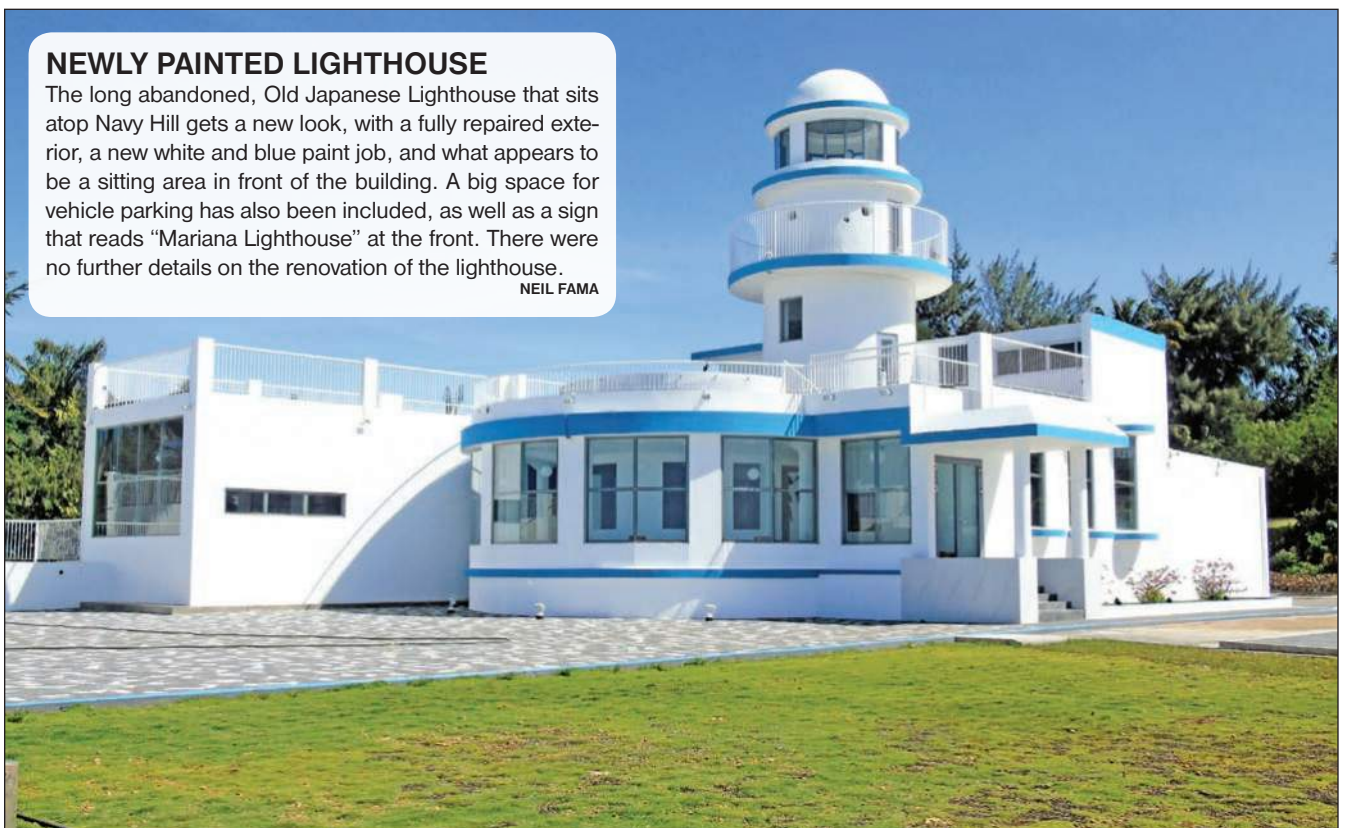
*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

NEWLY PAINTED LIGHTHOUSE

The long abandoned, Old Japanese Lighthouse that sits atop Navy Hill gets a new look, with a fully repaired exterior, a new white and blue paint job, and what appears to be a sitting area in front of the building. A big space for vehicle parking has also been included, as well as a sign that reads "Mariana Lighthouse" at the front. There were no further details on the renovation of the lighthouse.

NEIL FAMA



INSIDE



LOCAL

Pacific Engineering Group and Services is donating A&E services to rebuild the Tinian church.

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BUSINESS

Ocean Star Restaurant offers an unobstructed view of Saipan's magnificent casino hotel.

PAGE 11



NATION

President-elect Joe Biden plans to offer an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people.

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IT&E

Local

Miracle Hands Charity to kick off this Saturday

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A locally chartered non-profit organization called Miracle Hands Charity, which aims to assist disadvantaged people in the community, will be having a soft opening this

Saturday at their office in Gualo Rai at 10am.

Miracle Hands Charity chair Diego "DJ" Sablan is inviting the people they have already helped since December 2020 to take part in their soft opening. He said they will do a food drive for these guests.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the organization actually got started in September 2020 but, because of paperwork, they couldn't start helping people until December 2020.

"With all the chartering and paperwork, and finding an office, we started actually doing some charity work [in] December. And this Saturday, we will be giving some food donations to those that we've already vetted," said Sablan.

Sablan is no stranger when it comes to giving back to the community. He headed the non-profit group Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. with several others. MBHI's mission was to provide counseling and other ways for individuals who have drug, alcohol, and gambling addictions to recover from their vices.

This time around, Sablan wants Miracle Hands Charity to ensure that everyone in the community gets help one way or another. "Our mission and vision is to provide humanitarian aid to needy families and individuals in our community. We seek to alleviate hunger by providing emergency food assistance, clothing, and even toiletries, as well as spiritual support

and prayer if they need it, because we are a Christian-based charity," said Sablan.

Miracle Hands Charity aims to help people who are unemployed, jobless or furloughed foreign workers, homeless people, those who can't provide for themselves at the moment due to unemployment, those who are victims of domestic violence, and/or "just anyone in need."

Sablan said the COVID-19 pandemic motivated him and his team to provide relief to the community. "With COVID-19, I realized that there's a lot of families [and] individuals out there that are displaced [and]...I felt like it was the right time to do it. There are other nonprofits but...most of us are born and raised here all our lives, so we feel like it's our responsibility to give back to our community," said Sablan.

As of Jan. 19, Miracle Hands Charity has partnered up with three non-profit organizations—Rotary Club of Saipan, the Natibu Lions Club, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Additionally, the charity has six people under its organization.

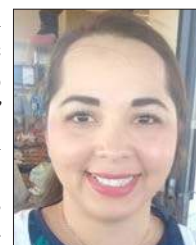
For those who are interested in sponsoring, or donating, you can check the charity's main office in Gualo Rai, or call 235-GIVE (4483). The charity accepts donations of money, clothes, canned food, and any non-perishable items (have long shelf life and don't require refrigeration to keep them from spoiling).

Saipan makes it to NYT's list of '52 places to love in 2021'

The island of Saipan in the western Pacific has been named to *The New York Times* "52 Places to Love in 2021."

The list, which is usually published annually as "52 Places to Go," was compiled from among over 2,000 public submissions of places with special meaning to the contributors. Saipan's submission to *The New York Times* list was made by Meghan West of the United States, a geophysicist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"We are so pleased to be recognized by *The New York*



Iakopo

Times as one of their '52 Places to Love in 2021,'" said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

"Although we are small on the map, people who visit the Marianas are often surprised by the depth of our islands' natural beauty, the diversity of our history and community, and the warmth of our people. The Marianas is a perfect place to explore and connect with nature, open our hearts and connect with others, and take time to unplug and connect with ourselves." (MVA)

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CEC to soon select a new executive director

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board will be meeting soon to discuss, among other topics, the selection of the commission's next executive director.

Acting CEC executive di-

rector Kayla Igitol said in an interview last week said there may be a meeting by the end of the month and one of the items on the agenda is the executive director's position that was left vacant after the retirement of Julita A. Villagomez, who retired last Dec. 30 after working at CEC for 32 years.

Igitol has been the acting executive director since Villagomez's retirement.

Other issues to be discussed at the upcoming meeting are the CNMI's election laws that the commissioners want to look at if there's a need for changes or updating.

At present, the CEC has

seven commissioners and that there is one vacant for Saipan and one for Tinian.

On the executive director's position, Igitol said if the board offers it to her, she will accept it. "That's really the discretion of the board if they want to make me permanent as executive director," she said.

Igitol, who has been work-

ing with CEC for 13 years now, rose from the ranks. She started as a temporary employee for six months, then got extended and became an



Igitol

election register clerk. She then became an administrative officer.

Igitol said she and Villagomez worked together for 13 years and that she was a good co-worker and a good boss. "I enjoyed my time working with her. She trained me. I learned a

lot from her," she said, adding that Villagomez was the most senior at CEC when she joined the agency.

Igitol said Villagomez was the acting executive director at the time because then-executive director Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan had resigned to run as delegate.

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Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars for January 2021. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before

the start of the webinar.

■ **Jan. 21 – Federal Contract Opportunities** – Beta.sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **Jan. 28 – Marketing**

to the Federal Government

– The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list."

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

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CUC: CHCC on top of their payments

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. confirmed that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has kept up with its utility billings and hasn't missed a payment so far, while the Torres-Palacios administration has paid its part in November.

In an interview with CUC chair Miranda Manglona, she stated that CUC chief financial officer Greg Cruz has confirmed that CHCC and the administration have been on track with their payments.

When asked how much CHCC

now owes, Manglona stated that they don't have the amount yet, but hopes to know how much is owed by the end of the year.

As for the change of rates, Manglona stated that both CUC and CHCC board are looking at more favorable solutions for both agencies.

Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* that CUC management participated in a joint meeting with the CHCC board and manager that focused on arrears and water rate.

"We're trying to come up with a favorable solution to both agencies," said Manglona. Additionally, there has been no definite solution

to resolve CHCC's arrears and water rate.

CHCC recently requested to change its water and wastewater for the hospital from a government rate to a commercial rate, saying it has learned that there is no government rate for water and wastewater.

In a letter CHCC recently sent CUC, it said it has learned that only the electrical service has a government rate, which means that water and wastewater can be considered either residential or nonresidential.

"On Dec. 10, 2020, CHCC became aware that the customer classification under which the CHCC has been billed by the CUC for water and sewer—"government"—does not exist according to CUC's regulations

for water and sewer services," states CHCC's letter to CUC.

In the letter, CHCC stated that CUC has to classify users of its utility services as commercial, residential, and governmental, or other classes that CUC deems appropriate.

"For wastewater, or sewer services, CUC has determined there to be two classes of customer: residential and nonresidential," said CHCC.

IPI

From Page 1

Ting last Dec. 3 that he submitted the reopening plan and other transition information to IPI senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing.

Browne told Zheng in his Dec. 3 resignation letter that his last day as interim CEO was Dec. 17, 2020.

He, however, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the IPI board asked him to extend his resignation notice period longer than 14 days to assist with specific matters.

In his letter, Browne said he must resign to attend to family matters. He thanked Zheng and the IPI board of director for having the confidence in him to assist the company "in a time of great need."

"I thank the wonderful IPI team members for their unwavering commitment to the long-term objective of the company," he said, adding that, without the team members' strength and determination, they could not have accomplished "so many great things in the past six years."

"You are truly the greatest team I have had the pleasure to work with in

Nonresidential customers have been determined to include barracks, hotels, restaurants with attached living quarters, etc.

CUC legal counsel Jose P. Mafnas Jr. has declined CHCC's request to switch rates and insists that there is a government rate for water and wastewater—\$54.30 per 1,000 gallons of water and \$0.0300 per gallon of wastewater.

my 40 years in the casino and hospitality industry," he said.

Browne urged IPI's team members not to let the challenges of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and the other issues surrounding IPI "derail their commitment and perseverance."

Browne was IPI's interim CEO for almost six months. He used to serve as IPI's senior vice president for Security and Surveillance. IPI appointed him CEO effective July 17, 2020. He informed the federal court recently that he is no longer the CEO since Dec. 17, 2020.

IPI's former general counsel, Michael Dotts, said over the weekend that even although Browne has resigned, he still has to appear in federal court tomorrow, Thursday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Browne and IPI's chair Cui Li Jie to appear before the court at 8:30am in connection with the U.S. Department of Labor's lawsuit against IPI.

Dotts said Browne could be held in contempt, but the general rule is that a person cannot be held in contempt for violating a court order that they had no notice of.

PROPST

From Page 1

sidered illegal and overstayers and this will prevent them from ever getting future work in the United States or any of its territories.

The lawmaker did not specify how many Turkish workers have expiring visas. It was reported last month, though, that there are 28 complaining Turkish H-2B workers and nine Italian H-2B workers.

Last month, over 30 Turkish and Italians H2B workers held a peaceful protest over IPI's alleged non-payment of their salaries and other promised benefits, at IPI's Human Resources office along Isa Drive in Sadog Tasi.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from IPI.

Propst said the Turkish workers are legitimate, highly skilled workers who have been all over the world and have even worked in U.S. military bases, including in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

"What do all of these workers have in common? In all their lives of working all around the world, they have never been neglected and treated so poorly," the lawmaker said.

Propst said that Monday's meeting with IPI's stranded guest workers was an emotional one, with the lawmakers giving these workers some donations. Propst said all the dona-

tions collected and dropped off were made possible through the support of community members from both the CNMI and the U.S. mainland.

He said all donated canned goods and supplies were shared with the workers staying at Vestcor and Queens apartments.

Propst said the Turkish construction workers were given \$500 worth of gift certificates and a \$100 gift card to shop at Joeten and Joeten Superstore, as they have a restricted food diet and it is best they choose their own food items for themselves.

He said there are more goods and donations that would be dropped yesterday (Tuesday).

Propst said he, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and their colleagues at the House spent time talking to each group about their plight.

"To have no electricity, no water, no income...they have essentially been abandoned by IPI and rely on the kindness of our community members," he said.

As to why they don't just leave the CNMI, Propst said they want to go back to their home countries but, before they leave, they must be paid the salaries they are owed and IPI must pay for their plane tickets. The lawmaker said if the workers don't get paid before they leave, they will never get paid.

"How do I know this? Because I am still in touch with a previous

group of workers who returned to their homes back in September and October of last year, all of whom were promised they would be wired the money they are owed once they returned to their country of origin. To date, none of them has received a penny," Propst said.

He said he, Villagomez, and colleagues will continue to assist in this situation, which he described as a "humanitarian crisis" affecting these workers.

He said they will be meeting with IPI, the Commonwealth Casino Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor, and CNMI Labor regarding these stranded workers. "Our goal is simple: Get them paid and return them home to reunite with their families. Nothing less will do," Propst said.

The lawmaker stressed that they have not forgotten the plight of local workers who are still owed salaries by IPI. He said they are meeting with several of the local workers and will continue to push for their owed wages as well.

He said they will continue to do what they can and must focus on the most basic needs of everyone living on the islands and that begins with access to food, water, and shelter.

"Helping others is what we are known for in our beloved Commonwealth. Let us continue to reach out and help out whenever and however we can," Propst said.

allowed employees to work when IPI was not paying them because I believed that they would be paid all of their back wages by Dec. 14, and then that they would be paid by Christmas. I am still hopeful that all the wages owed to the employees, including to myself, will be paid shortly," Browne said.

His motion included 20 letters from IPI employees supporting him.

Browne said it was only on the day he resigned that he was forwarded a message from USDOL regarding the first amended consent judgment executed on June 12, 2020.

In its eight-page petition for contempt and for an order for IPI to show cause, USDOL stated that IPI created a "humanitarian crisis" in the CNMI and accused IPI executives of unlawfully requiring stranded employees to work without pay during a global pandemic, and failing to meet the workers' basic necessities or provide for their return to their home countries.

sisting the security and surveillance team and no longer had authority over the finances and administration of IPI.

In his opposition letter, Browne denied any knowledge of a consent judgment or an amended consent judgment that existed prior to Dec. 4, 2020.

"Subsequent to my learning about the amended consent judgment against IPI and IPI Holdings Limited on Dec. 4, I learned that in 2019, IPIHL had hired a law firm in the mainland called Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan, LLC for this matter. IPI and IPIHL were represented by Eugene Sullivan from that law firm. I had never spoken with Eugene Sullivan nor had any involvement with this case until Dec. 4," Browne said.

Browne said it was never his intention to violate the consent judgment whose existence he did not know.

"The consent judgment was a matter handled long before I became CEO and involved off-island attorneys who I do not know. I only

GUAM

From Page 1

their total to 128 COVID-19-related fatalities.

According to the Joint Information Center, Guam's 128th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City last Jan. 17 at approximately 10:36pm. The patient was a 39-year-old male with underlying health conditions and was admitted to GRMC last Jan. 15 and tested positive upon admission.

"There is no dawning without night. As we mourn the loss of another to this virus, we cannot let ourselves become complacent. This virus does not rest and neither shall we. To those who loved him, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send our deepest condolences and sympathies for your loss," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

JIC also announced that a total of 7,200 doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Guam last Thursday, Jan. 14, followed by 7,800 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines that arrived on Saturday, Jan. 16.

This completes Guam's January allocation of 15,000 doses of both COVID-19 vaccines, on top of the 11,500 doses during the December allocation, the JIC statement said.

Also, JIC confirmed one more case of COVID-19 in Guam that was identified out of 219 tests that were performed last Jan. 17.

To date, there have been a total of 7,485 cases of COVID-19 in Guam,

with 128 deaths, 137 cases in active isolation, and 7,220 not in active isolation.

JIC added that the Department of Public Health and Social Services—in partnership with the Office of the Governor, Guam Department of Education, Mayors' Council of Guam, Department of Public Works, Guam Department of Labor, Guam Fire Department, Guam Police Department, Guam National Guard, University of Guam's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Serve Guam Commission, which oversees the AmeriCorps Guam Program—continued its COVID-19 vaccination last Jan. 19 at the Okkodo High School in Dededo.

DPHSS COVID-19 vaccination clinic will continue on Jan. 20 and 21, starting at 8:30am at the UOG Field House in Mangilao.

According to JIC, these vaccination clinics are for Phase 1B, individuals 75 years and older, and others who are due for their second dose and received their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 28 to 31, 2020.

"DPHSS will issue tickets for vaccinations on a first-come, first-served basis to patients in their vehicles only. Patient parking Instructions will be printed on the back of each ticket, please read these instructions carefully," said JIC. Those who are due for their second dose are reminded to bring their immunization card and identification card to the vaccination clinic, so it may be properly documented.

BROWNE

From Page 1

for the NMI tomorrow despite having renounced his role as CEO.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Browne, along with IPI's chair Cui Li Jie, to appear before the court tomorrow for the hearing on the U.S. Department of Labor's petition for contempt even though he no longer serves as its CEO.

In his official response and opposition to USDOL's petition to find IPI's officials in contempt for violating a previous consent judgment, Browne said he officially resigned as CEO on Dec. 3, 2020. Effective Dec. 17, 2020, Browne said he was no longer IPI CEO but he extended his term to Dec. 22 so that he could represent IPI in one last Commonwealth Casino Commission public hearing.

On Dec. 23, 2020, Browne said he returned to his former position of as-

PEGS, subcontractors donate A&E services for new Tinian church

Pacific Engineering Group and Services has committed to donating architectural and engineering services worth an estimated \$110,000 as part of a larger project to build a new concrete San Jose Parish Church.

The ad-hoc group Friends of San Jose Church, Tinian announced yesterday the PEGS donation, which would pave the way to build a new church on Tinian to replace the one that was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

Officers of Friends of San Jose Church recently met with PEGS president Grego-

rio Q. Castro and PEGS general manager Jessie Arizala to discuss the services they will be donating. PEGS will be providing the overall coordination and production of the A&E. PEGS said that they will be collaborating with numerous subcontractors to complete the A&E.

Friends of San Jose Church, Tinian would also like to thank Roman Demapan and Gus Delgado (RSD Associates); James Ripple (Marianas Geotech Services); Alfred Pangelinan (Meridian Land Survey); Aquilino S. Cabrias, Jr. (ASC Engineers Inc.); and

John Gourley (Micronesian Environmental Services) for their generous contribution and support of this project.

"We want to especially thank Gregorio Q. Castro, president of PEGS, who has taken the lead to organize the donation of the services from subcontractors who have signed on to assist with the A&E," said Kimberly King-Hinds, who is co-chair of Friends of San Jose Church, Tinian. "We are so grateful and excited about this collaboration and the opportunity to move this project one step closer to making this a reality



From left, Friends of San Jose Church, Tinian co-chair Dawn Sarmiento; Friends vice chair Richard Lazaro; Pacific Engineering Group and Services general manager Jessie Arizala; PEGS assistant general manager Denm Manglona; PEGS president Gregorio Q. Castro; Friends co-chair Kimberly King-Hinds; Fr. Anthony Aguason; and Friends treasurer Teruko King.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Sunday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of the Marianas through Sunday afternoon. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Rip currents

could briefly subside today, Wednesday, but are then expected to return Thursday.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing near reef lines facing east. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline, then head in to shore when you are out of the current. (PR)

Guam Legislature to participate in nationwide COVID-19

memorial

The 36th Guam Legislature will be commemorating the nationwide COVID-19 memorial on the front steps of the Guam Congress Building at 8:05am today, Jan. 20, 2021. We will observe a moment of silence and the tolling of the bells at 8:30am in honor of each life lost on Guam due to COVID-19.

The event will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4, and streamed online via I Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed on YouTube. (PR)

for the community of Tinian."


The group recently completed the first phase of the project in December with the turnover of the refurbished Tinian Social Hall, which is now the temporary place of worship for the Tinian Catholic parishioners.

The second phase of the project is to build a concrete, air-conditioned church build-

ing that will include living quarters for the priest, parish office space, baptistry, choir, and chapel to accommodate smaller daily Mass services.

"The intent is for the design to as much as possible replicate the original church that was built by the people of Tinian in the 1950's," said King-Hinds. "Mr. Castro is a son

of Tinian who volunteered his time as young man, along with many other members of the community, to build the original church. With his personally knowledge and the team's subject matter expertise, we are confident that we will soon have a design focused on simple elegance, functionality and low maintenance." (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES)

CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAES-21-013

A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement (S19-068)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer - via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior - via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Robert T. Torres, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

‘There’s govt rate for water, wastewater’

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s claims that there's no government rate for water and wastewater, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. stated Tuesday that there is such a rate and has been in place since the early 1990s.

Also, CUC denied CHCC's request that its water and wastewater rates be recalculated as commercial rates, which, in effect, would lower these aspects of CHCC's utility bills.

In his response to the CHCC letter, CUC legal counsel Jose P. Mafnas Jr. stated that CUC has the authority to establish utility rates as it deems fit—an authority granted it by Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission orders.

Before that, he said, the authority to establish water and sewer rates by a class that included government consumers came after electric rates began organizing, hiring,

and measuring by installing meters, rules and regulations, policies and procedures, etc. prior to the establishment of rates. He said the rates were ultimately adopted on Jan. 21, 1993, and the government water rate of \$0.0300 per gallon consumed was created on Oct. 1, 1992.

From fiscal years 2006 to 2009, CUC functioned with the Governor's Emergency Declarations that required CUC to operate under the direction of the executive director since CUC did not have a board of directors, Mafnas said, adding that CUC was able to have all the rights to carry out all required administrative decisions to meet funding contracts and reporting needed at the time.

“A separate CNMI government water and wastewater customer class, hereinafter referred to as government, should be established, which comprises all components of the CNMI government including the central government, line agencies, the

college, the public schools, and the autonomous agencies,” said CUC. This was established on May 21, 2010, under a CPUC docket. CUC stated that this customer class should not include non-CNMI government agencies, which fall under the commercial class.

As for water rates, CPUC set a metered government water rate of \$54.30 per 1,000 gallons. Additionally, section 24 stated that CPUC's establishment of a new CNMI government customer class and temporary unmetered monthly rates for residential and commercial water customers should replace any provision in CUC's administrative regulations.

According to Mafnas, CPUC's order makes it clear that a government class with a water rate of \$54.30 per 1,000 gallons was identified, confirmed, and established.

“In sum, as discussed, CPUC Docket 10-1's order establishes a legal creation of a government classification for water and wastewater services. Consequently, CUC respectfully denies CHCC's request that all CHCC's prospective bills and arrears be calculated using the commercial rate for water and the nonresidential rate for wastewater services,” said Mafnas.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2390 Beach Road, Oleai CDA Bldg., Unit 205, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com



INVITATION FOR BIDS
2021-CDA-04-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 • TIME: 10:00 am

“JANITORIAL and LAWN CARE SERVICES”

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the 2390 Beach Road Oleai, CDA Bldg., Unit 205, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays, and on our website.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptcom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021 Closing date: January 29, 2021

Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-021

Re-Announcement Ref. 20-016

Opening Date: January 11, 2020

Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Technician: Electrician
DEPARTMENT:	Power Generation
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Two (2)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and Overhead crane.
- Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes, USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, and NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC/DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging System, Fire Alarm and Battery Bank.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multi-meter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester & Hydrometer.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical tools – Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiarize with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools – Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains daily reports.
- Practices SAFETY. Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Vocational Certification and other specialized certificates. Must demonstrate having had: 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Performing skilled maintenance, operations, troubleshooting and repair. Recommending or implementing solutions. Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance. Math and reading. Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports. Utilizing all electrical tools and test equipment. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to:

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

ALLIED PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CORP.
IS LOOKING FOR:

CIVIL ENGINEER (1)
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EXPERIENCE. GREEN CARD
OR US CITIZEN PREFERRED.
RATE: \$18/HR STARTING SALARY
IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL
SCOTT MALIN AT 788-3381 OR
EMAIL Liliabaptista21@yahoo.com

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<p>NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- AGRIPINA J. GIODA and MICHAEL J. GIODA, Defendants)</p>	<p>CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0103</p>
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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 4, 2021, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal Description of the Property:
Lot no. 011 G 264, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total Area of the Property:
750 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Monday, February 15, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of January, 2021:

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MINA announces the 2020 Green Award recipients

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance announced yesterday its recipients of its 2020 Green Awards, which recognize a business, school, and individual that exemplifies environmental stewardship and helps to advance MINA's mission of "Empowering Communities for Conservation."

The 2020 Green Business of the Year Award was given to The Shack for their commitment to conservation and incorporating the green business culture throughout its entire company. The Shack implemented a sustainable takeout packaging program, reducing waste for over four years by transitioning from styrofoam containers for take-

out orders to environmentally friendly, 100% compostable, and 100% plant-based containers. The Shack was one of the first restaurants on Saipan to give these sustainable options to their customers while also serving bamboo straws to their dine-in customers.

Dandan Middle School was selected to receive the 2020 Environmental Heroes Award for their dedication to the environment and work to protecting our natural resources. Through countless hours of volunteering at beach clean-ups, educating their peers, families and neighbors, maintaining their campus garden and leading the way in sustainable practices, the students

of DMS are true environmental heroes.

The 2020 Environmental Champion Award went to the CNMI's first Miss Earth, Leisha Deleon Guerrero, who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the environment and conservation of our natural resources. She has devoted tireless individual effort and inspires leadership to promote environmental responsibility and sustainability at work and in the local community.

MINA thanks MyCaptures Photography for taking photos of the award ceremony and Jamika Reyes Taijeon, owner of Salt and Barber, for the handcrafted award plaques. (PR)



The 2020 Green Business Award of the Year is given to The Shack.

MYCAPTURES PHOTOGRAPHY




The 2020 Environmental Heroes Award is given to Dandan Middle School.

MYCAPTURES PHOTOGRAPHY




The 2020 Environmental Champion Award is given to 2020 Miss Earth Leisha Deleon Guerrero.

MYCAPTURES PHOTOGRAPHY



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE WATER & WASTEWATER CERTIFIED OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program for the islands Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the US Department of Interior-Office of Insular Affairs.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-015, Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 19, 2021**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal under the contract. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Request for Proposals should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proposer, awarded a contract.


This Request for Proposals does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vivian Santos, Human Resources Manager via email-Vivian.santos@cucgov.org; Francisco Matsunaga, HR Generalist, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Support Technician via email-marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-012

SUBMISSION DATE: February 16, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"Replacement and Installation of Rota West Harbor Marina Docking System, Rota"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 13, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 5, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Rota West Harbor, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 10, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A new captain takes the helm

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

The skies were already darkening over the United States in 1840 when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow added those metaphorical lines to a poem he titled "The Building of the Ship."

There were mutineers aboard. Barely a generation later they tried to wreck the Ship of State on the jagged rocks of slavery, secession and civil war.

Abraham Lincoln, who saved the Union, shared the vision of America as a light to the world. The Union's survival would assure, he said, that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

As a new president takes the helm this week, the Ship of State is again in peril on a restless sea.

It survived another mutiny this month, led by a corrupt and incompetent captain attempting to defy the decision of the vessel's owners—the American people—to relieve him from command.

The voters could not have chosen a steadier hand to replace him than Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., who will be inaugurated our 46th president at noon on Wednesday.

Tempered by a lifetime of public service to be moderate in instinct, reasonable in his expectations and, above all, faithful to the Constitution, he will devote himself to seeking bipartisan solutions for the nation's problems and to resuming its hallowed role as a light to the world.

Biden and his vice president, Kamala Harris, need and deserve the respect of every citizen if they are to accomplish those broad goals.

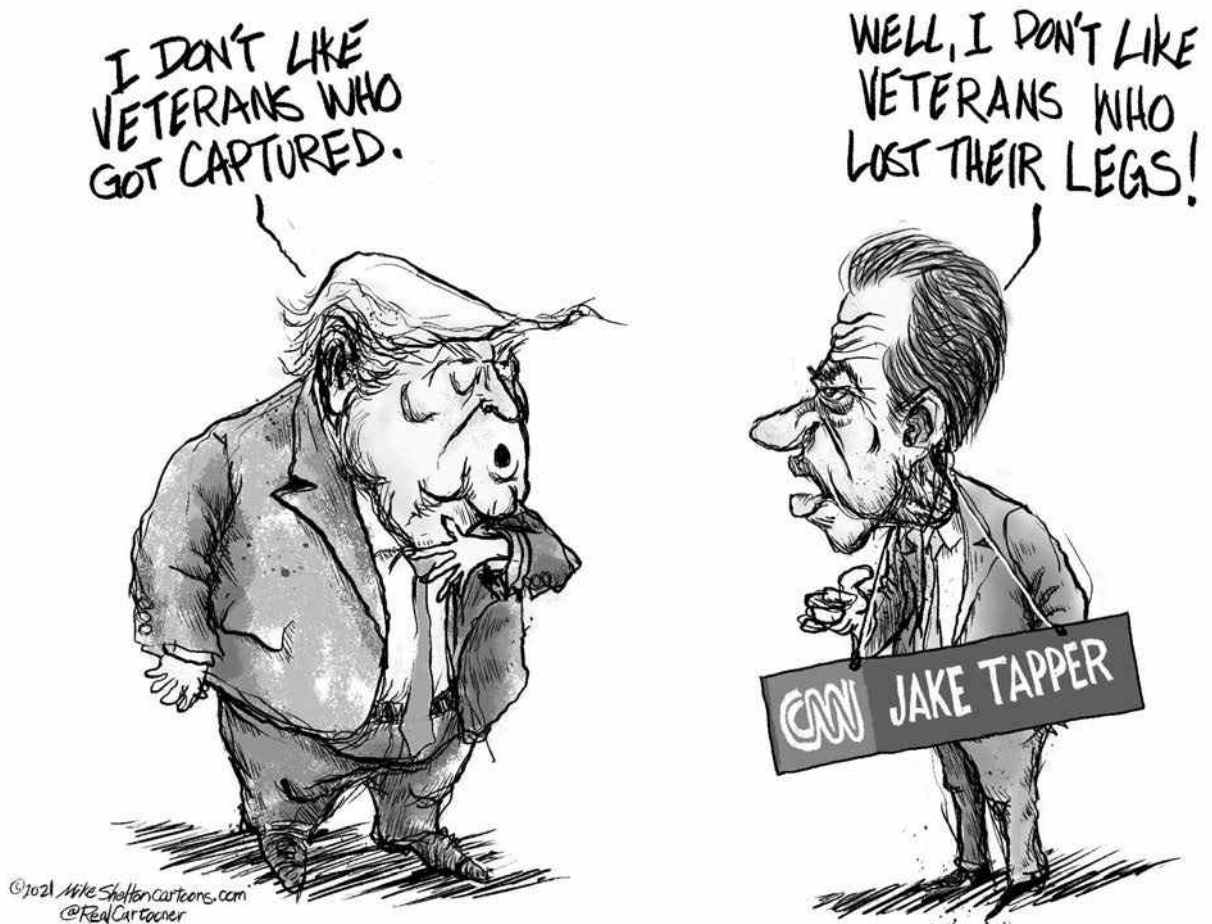
Every citizen should want that regardless of how one might disagree on specific programs.

The nation is staggering under the human and economic toll of a pandemic that has killed more than 380,000 Americans, now at the rate of more than 4,000 a day. Racial tensions, exacerbated by the departing president to whom they were weapons in his arsenal of disunion, remain to be addressed and healed. Domestic terrorism, a greater threat now than that of foreign origin, must be a priority. Taxes need to be reformed to bring the deficits under control. The disastrous effects of climate change are as undeniable as the responsibility of every nation, especially ours, to mitigate them. Virtually all the federal regulations intended to protect human lives, health and the environment have been left in shreds.

Only two presidents have embarked on a comparable sea of troubles: Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Unlike FDR, Biden inherits a significant minority of citizens who believe the election was stolen for him and that his presidency will be illegitimate. They seem to have influence over a majority of the minority party in the House of Representatives. Many of those members are responsible for that, having aided the defeated president in propagating those lies. Several helped him incite the Jan. 6 insurrection

See CAPTAIN on Next Page



How do we explain the Capitol attack to our children?

Like many of you, I am still trying to make sense of what happened Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol and what it means for our country from here.

But as an author of books for children on U.S. government and civics, a question that concerns me, as I am sure it does parents and teachers, is: How do we explain what happened to our children?

This is not an unimportant question, because what the next generation of voters, parents, civic leaders and politicians does in the next five, 10, 15 and 20 years could very well determine how long our republic survives.

In my first book, "How the U.S. Government Works" (a title I have been rethinking in recent years), I explain that the government's power comes from the people, and that the people play an important role in helping the government do its work. I say that people vote for the nation's leaders, pay taxes, and serve in the military and on juries. In addition, people let their elected leaders know what's important to them by writing letters, attending public meetings, and gathering "together in large groups to let the government's leaders know what they want."

"The leaders of the government depend on the people to tell them what kind of laws they want and what the government can do to help them. If citizens don't like what the government is doing, they can vote to elect new people to lead the government and represent them in Congress. If they do like what the government is doing, they can vote to keep them in office. The people give the government its power and the people decide whom they want to exercise that power."

It seems so all-American, public spirited and altruistic. But in the aftermath of Jan. 6, I think it's too simplistic and rosy. I think we owe it to our children and to the future of our country to say a lot more. Let's start with what Mitt Romney said in the Senate before the counting of the electoral vote resumed: Telling them the truth.

We must tell children that government power is an important responsibility, not to be taken for granted lightly. We must also explain that not everyone who seeks public office is necessarily doing it for the public good. That some people have personal interests that may not serve the public interest, and that some people do not always tell the truth.

We can teach our children not to believe everything they hear from family and friends, in the news media and on social media. We can teach them that they have a responsibility to educate themselves independently about important public matters and about candidates for public office, to consult multiple news sources for information, and to ask hard questions and be suspicious of too quick or facile answers. Government is complex, especially in a large, diverse country. Our future voters and deci-

By **SYL SOBEL**
The Baltimore Sun

Syl Sobel is an attorney and author of children's books on U.S. history and civics.
Email: www.sylsobel.com.



sion-makers must learn to consider multiple sides of an issue and appreciate that easy solutions to complex problems rarely work.

Most important, we need to teach our children that we don't all share the same values and priorities, that we need to listen to each other, find common ground and be willing to compromise over matters on which we have different points of view. In my book "The Bill of Rights: Protecting Our Freedom Then and Now," I describe the many interests represented at the Constitutional Convention: big states versus small states; mercantile versus agricultural; North versus South; strong national government versus states' rights.

"With all of these differences, writing the Constitution required the framers to make deals or compromises. With these compromises, one side received some, but not all, of what it wanted, and the other side got some, but not all, of what it wanted."

We must teach our children, as the founders taught us, that compromise in the interest of common good is a strength of our form of government, not a weakness. (And yes, as part of this conversation, we must also examine critically the compromises that perpetuated slavery and contributed to our troubled racial history). We must help the next generation to recognize that while politics may be about winning and losing, governance isn't.

The story of the United States has always been about the conflict between personal freedom and public good. Historically, some Americans have seen the world as "Every man for himself," while others as "We're all in this together." While the former has helped to build great wealth and power, the latter has helped us through some of our most difficult times. I believe it is becoming increasingly obvious that this is one of those times.

I end my book "The U.S. Constitution and You" with the oft-repeated story about Ben Franklin, who was asked by a spectator outside the State House at the end of the Constitutional Convention, "What have you given us?"

"A republic," Franklin said. "If you can keep it."

I hope we can teach our children what they need to learn to satisfy that sacred responsibility.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Here are 3 immediate goals for Joe Biden as he prepares to lead a nation in crisis

When Joe Biden is inaugurated Wednesday as the 46th president of the United States, he'll face a nation torn by deep political and social divisions, and a coronavirus pandemic that has killed almost 400,000 Americans and hurt the economy.

Biden's challenges are more daunting than those faced by any president since Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had to lead the nation through the Great Depression.

In 2009, Biden was sworn in as vice president under President Barack Obama, and the new administration had to steady a country racked by an economic crisis. But that doesn't compare with America today, where the coronavirus pandemic is claiming lives, tearing at the economy and leaving many Americans without jobs.

And Biden is following one of the most controversial presidents in history. The country is only two weeks removed from an insurrection, where marauders stormed the U.S. Capitol looking to do harm to lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence.

As Biden takes the reins of government, he'll also have to deal with the vestiges of Donald Trump's term, including a second impeachment trial in the Senate.

"My fellow Americans, the decisions we make in the next few weeks and months will determine whether we thrive in a way that benefits all Americans, or whether we stay stuck in a place where those at the top do great while economic growth for most everyone else is just a spectator sport—where America's prospects dim, not brighten," Biden said in unveiling his pandemic rescue plan. "They will determine whether we reassert American leadership and outcompete our competitors in the global economy or whether we watch them catch up and pass us by."

CAPTAIN

From Page 8

at the Capitol.

A retired fire captain in Lawrence, Kansas, Clinton Lynn, expressed the consequences in an interview with *The Washington Post*.

"I'm so mad, I see red about the (expletive) steal," said Lynn, 64. "I believe with all my heart that the Democratic Party stole the election, and I will never believe otherwise as long as I draw breath. Liberals, you're driving us to civil war."

In reality, the 2020 election was one of the best-managed, fairest and most closely watched elections ever. Republicans had significant down ballot-success in almost every state Biden won. Republican poll workers and election officials from every schoolhouse polling place to every state capital took part in counting the votes. Not one has suggested any evidence that anything irregular affected the outcome.

Why, then, are so many people convinced it was stolen, even to the point of threatening civil war? Why can't they see that the politician who wailed about being the victim of a "steal" was himself the one trying to steal the election?

It owes to the effectiveness of the technique known as the Big Lie. The bigger the lie, the more readily people will believe it.

Its most notorious practitioner, the future fascist dictator of Germany, explained that although "the broad masses" will often tell little lies (or so he said) it would "never come into their minds" to tell big ones. So they would not believe others could have "the impudence to distort the truth so infamously."

The departing president may actually believe his own big lies, but that is no excuse for any rational person to help propagate them. Everyone who takes an oath to uphold the Constitution, regardless of party, promises to defend the nation against domestic enemies as well as foreign ones. That extends to defending the Biden presidency against attempts to subvert it by denying its legitimacy.

Every citizen has a corresponding obligation to reject the big lies. Joe Biden will be the president for all of us. The Ship of State has only one captain at a time.

Not everyone will agree with where he wants it to go, nor should everyone be expected to. He will, however, seek everyone's counsel.

All of us, Republican, Democrat or independent, are aboard the Ship of State. All of us are depending on him to steer it away from the shoals and rocks where it seemed to be headed.

Indeed, humanity with all its fears, with all the hopes of future years, is still hanging on our fate.

Here are three things that Biden must tackle during the early days of his administration.

1. Get control of the pandemic.

The last year of Trump's administration was marred by the emergence of COVID-19.

Thanks in part to Operation Warp Speed, there are now vaccines available to help bring the pandemic under control. But the distribution of the vaccines in many states has been troublesome, and more Americans are dying of COVID-19 than at any point of the pandemic.

Biden's first job is to fix problems with the distribution of the vaccine. The sooner Americans are inoculated, the sooner the economic and employment outlook will improve.

So much of the current vaccination plan relies on state officials who aren't qualified to run such a massive program. It would be nice to develop public-private partnerships to speed the process because since private industry is much better at supply chain management and other logistical issues.

Biden has proposed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue plan that, among other things, would provide an additional \$1,400 in direct payments to most Americans, raise the minimum wage to \$15, provide a \$400 per-week unemployment benefit through September and produce \$350 billion in state and local government aid.

The new president must also make sure that the nation is ready to respond to future pandemics, and along the way bolster the need to trust science and logic.

2. Restore the nation's reputation around the world.

It's difficult for American leaders to preach the virtues of the nation's democracy when it appears so flawed to the rest of the world.

Biden must make sure America is leading the way on the issues facing the world, including the economy, climate change, trade, human rights and combating terrorism.

That means not only getting our house in order, but developing consistent policies.

Trump's move to reevaluate some trade agreements and the details of other alliances were necessary to make sure such contracts were in the best interest of the American people. But there are other areas of foreign policy measures that Biden will have to tackle, including foreign interference in our elections and keeping a proper check on Russia.

Donald Trump gave America a four-year civics lesson—the hard way

Sitting out front of our house last week watching the sun set, I struck up a conversation with a few neighbors going through their afternoon routines—checking the mail, out for a run, that sort of thing.

We found ourselves discussing the mob attack on Congress and President Donald Trump's culpability—morally and criminally—as well as the Constitution's phrasing of impeachment, whether Trump can indeed be convicted even after he has left office, whether the House impeachment was sufficient to render him ineligible for federal office under the 14th Amendment without a Senate conviction and other assorted topics about which none of us knew diddly a mere month ago.

If there is any good to come from this atrocious administration, one neighbor suggested, it's that he has brought the country into a much closer relationship with civics and the Constitution than existed before his political rise.

So, thanks, Trump?

Few would have ever muttered the word "emoluments" until Trump's seemingly endless conflicts of interest brought it into the popular lexicon. "S corporations" were the domain of CPAs before investigative reporters were able to peel back some of the thick tarp Trump has laid over his finances and tax returns. "Checks and balances" was an abstract concept until Congress was forced to exercise its responsibility to hold Trump responsible for his abuses of power (and failed).

We're discussing whether there are limits on presidential pardon power—including whether Trump can forgive himself for his own sins. And we have a better grasp of the difference between federal and state jurisdictions in criminal investigations of fraud, and that there is one bright-line limit to the potential pardon—it doesn't apply to state investigations (good news!).

Similarly, more people now have a better grasp of the responsibilities of state election officials in overseeing votes. And af-

By **GROMER JEFFERS JR.**

The Dallas Morning News

Gromer Jeffers Jr. is a political writer for The Dallas Morning News.



Biden also will have to assess our lingering presence in Afghanistan and Iraq and stay vigilant in the fight against terror, both abroad and at home.

The new president also is expected to work with European allies on a unified China policy.

3. Healing a divided nation.

The most obvious and toughest challenge facing Biden is bringing together a fractured nation.

Nearly half the country didn't vote for Biden. Worse, there's a nasty divide between Democratic and Republican voters that's unhealthy and counterproductive.

Biden campaigned on healing the nation, and he'll have to use the relationships he's developed in his more than 40 years in politics to remind folks that we have more in common than what separates us.

It won't be easy.

Trump's Senate impeachment trial will make it difficult for Biden to appeal to Trump voters. And if Trump becomes a martyr, the country could remain hopelessly divided for years.

In politics, a divide is not problematic when there's an avenue for compromise.

If the promise of Biden's presidency is realized, he'll be able to work across party lines to break gridlock, even if it's only for the most important issues facing the nation.

Biden has already set an example by appointing a diverse Cabinet. He must strive to show Americans that diversity is not a threat to anyone, but an asset for a great future.

Once he takes office, Biden should always look ahead and not get trapped in revisiting Trump's fractious term.

By **SCOTT MARTELLE**

Los Angeles Times

Scott Martelle, who joined the Los Angeles Times' editorial board in 2014, is a veteran journalist and author of six history books.



ter three proceedings we all know now how Supreme Court justices are vetted and appointed, as well as how the Senate majority leader can exercise unchecked power to control the confirmation process to his party's advantage (sorry, Merrick Garland)—and how unconcerned top political figures are with their own hypocrisy.






You can see where the interest has spiked by playing with Google Trends. Searches for "emoluments" jumped just after Trump's inauguration in 2017, and again in October 2019 as House Democrats sought to sue him over alleged violations. So did searches for "presidential pardons" in the days after the 2020 election.

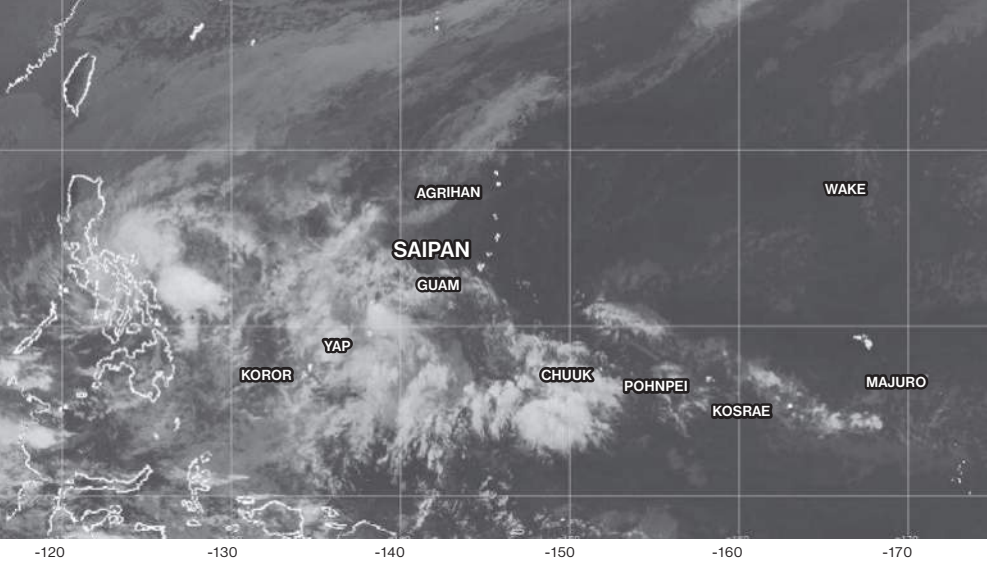
Ditto for "impeachment" as House hearings were underway in early 2019 over Trump's efforts to pressure the Ukrainian government to dig up dirt on Joe Biden and his family, and "presidential pardon" as Trump's election defeat became clear—and over the past couple weeks in the wake of Trump's unleashed mob of supporters.

So, again, thanks Trump. At least you've given us new things to talk about.

Though in retrospect, I think we all would have been happier talking about the weather.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:58 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas waters except the far southern Guam waters. Satellite shows a trade-wind disturbance about 500 miles to the east, moving west. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed primarily of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast, wind waves from a similar direction, and possibly the first bits of a north swell which is expected to arrive today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	83° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:39 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:11 AM	12:15 PM
Friday	-	12:58 AM	12:51 PM
Saturday	-	1:46 AM	1:30 PM
Sunday	-	2:36 AM	2:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	67° / 57°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 71°	
London	Showers	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 52°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Melbourne	Sunny	76° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	38° / 27°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 31°	
Paris	Cloudy	53° / 46°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 42°	
Rome	Cloudy	56° / 50°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 43°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	43° / 27°	
Tokyo	Sunny	46° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	40° / 26°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:21 AM	Low Tide	0.56	
12:57 PM	High Tide	1.82	
8:03 PM	Low Tide	0.68	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business



Ocean Star Restaurant is on the same building where Cha Café & Bistro and a stone's throw away from the Imperial Pacific Resort.



Ocean Star Restaurant offers an unobstructed view of Saipan's magnificent casino hotel and its art nouveau façade.

Ocean Star Restaurant: Great food with a view



MARK RABAGO
Ocean Star Restaurant's Mac and Cheese Burger.



MARK RABAGO
The Ocean Star Shrimp Kelaguen.

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cindy Zhang first thought of opening an upscale resto-pub across the Imperial Pacific Resort in 2019, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed her plans. It finally happened last Dec. 25, when Zhang opened Ocean Star Restaurant in Garapan. The newest food haunt on island offers an unobstructed view of Saipan's magnificent casino hotel and offers a dual menu of Chinese and Filipino dishes.

With tourists not expected soon, Ocean Star Restaurant is

currently focusing on the local market and that's the primary motivation in bringing in two topnotch cooks—one Chinese and one Filipino—to the fold.

Ocean Star Restaurant serves popular Filipino fare with a twist. For example, their kare-kare comes with a full order of crispy pata as the protein to complement the rich and thick peanut sauce and vegetables.

Their burgers are also nothing to scoff at as they don't skimp on the meat. The Mac and Cheese Burger, in particular, is pure decadence as who would've thought incorporating those golden carbohydrates would work well with 100% beef.

The Seafood Spaghetti also is a homerun for fans of shrimp, squid, and mussels as Ocean Star Restaurant makes sure to pack it with the bounties of the sea. Another crowd favorite is the Ocean Star Shrimp Kelaguen. Zhang said it's the spirit of the sea in a wine glass and is always a perfect appetizer for either lunch or dinner.

Their Chinese menu is populated with surefire hits

like golden shrimp, honey walnut shrimp, beef broccoli, sweet & sour pork, shrimp fried noodles and house specialties like dry fried small shrimp and spicy small cuttlefish with XO sauce.

And, of course, there's Ocean Star Restaurant's location smack in the center of Garapan's tourist district and a stone's throw away from the Imperial Pacific Resort. Its ambience also has big city feel as Zhang even flew in a famous interior decorator from Beijing to spunk up the place and give it a modern and electric vibe. Her hope is Ocean Star Restaurant will be the most Instagram-able place on island.

An introductory promotion, all food at Ocean Star Restaurant is 10% off. That's on top of the newly opened restaurant's already ridiculously low prices (as much as \$2 lower than comparable restaurants on island). Aside from seats to accommodate 42 customers, Ocean Star Restaurant also had a private room.

As to why she named the place Ocean Star Restaurant, Zhang has a simple answer: "Saipan has become sort of a star in Chinese tourism circles mostly because of the casino and, of course, we added the word 'ocean' because we are located on an island in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean."

Future plans include offering bubble tea and hot and cold coffee and introducing a barbecue menu once tourists return by the boatload. Before the pandemic brought the global travel market to its knees, Zhang was thinking of opening a restaurant that primarily serves Hong Kong-style dumplings, as well as more high-end dishes like salmon, lobster, and king crab. She may revisit those plans in the near future when the tourism industry goes back to the pink of health.

Zhang and staff comply with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's guidelines, with social distancing measures, the use of face masks and hand sanitizers, directional arrows, temperature checks, and customer check-in fully enforced at Ocean Star Restaurant.

Ocean Star Restaurant is on the same building where Cha Café & Bistro is located. It is open from 10:30am to 10pm from Monday to Sunday. For more information or for reservations, call 233-1555 or 788-6686.

Yellen urges Congress to do more to fight pandemic recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary nominee Janet Yellen is calling on Congress to do more to fight a deep pandemic-induced recession, saying the threats of a longer and even worse downturn are too great to cut back on support now.

"Without further action, we risk a longer, more painful recession now—and long-term scarring of the economy later," Yellen said in testimony prepared for her confirmation hearing Tuesday before the Senate Finance Committee.

Yellen, who will be the first female treasury secretary in the nation's history, is expected to have little trouble winning approval in a Senate that will be narrowly controlled by Democrats once two Democratic senators from Georgia are seated.

In her testimony, Yellen, who was also the country's first female chair of the Federal Reserve, said that the quick action Congress took by passing trillion-dollar rescue packages last spring and an additional \$900 billion relief measure last month were successful in "averting a lot of suffering."

But she said that even with the extraordinary government help, the pandemic has still caused "widespread devastation."

"Eighteen million unemployment insurance claims are being paid every week. Food bank shelves are going empty. The damage has been sweeping and as the president-elect said last Thursday, our response must be too," Yellen said.

"Over the next few months, we are going to need more aid

to distribute the vaccine, to reopen schools, to help states keep firefighters and teachers on the job," Yellen said. She said more support would also be needed to keep unemployment benefit checks going out and to help families who are going hungry or in danger of being homeless.

Biden last week unveiled a \$1.9 trillion relief plan that would provide more aid to American families, businesses and local communities and provide more support for vaccine production and distribution.

While Democrats have endorsed the effort, many Republican lawmakers have expressed concerns about the price tag given soaring federal budget deficits.

Yellen said that she and Biden were aware of the country's rising debt burden.

Biden picks Chopra, Gensler for financial oversight roles

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden has chosen Rohit Chopra to be the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, tapping a progressive ally of Sen. Elizabeth Warren to helm the agency whose creation she championed.

Chopra, now a commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, helped launch the consumer agency after the 2008-09 financial crisis and served as deputy director, where he sounded the alarm about skyrocketing lev-

els of student loan debt. The pick comes as Democrats are eyeing ways to provide student loan relief to millions of Americans as part of a COVID-19 relief package.

Biden announced the move Monday, along with his intent to nominate Gary Gensler, a former chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as the next chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Gensler, a former Goldman Sachs banker, tightened oversight of the complex financial transac-

tions that helped cause the Great Recession.

Biden's choice of an expert with experience as a strong markets regulator during the financial crisis to lead the SEC signals a goal of turning the Wall Street watchdog agency toward an activist role after a deregulatory stretch during the Trump administration.

Consumer and investor advocate groups praised the selections of Gensler and Chopra. The two must be confirmed by the Senate, which will be controlled by Democrats.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

30,814.26
-177.26
0.57%

S&P

3,768.25
-27.29
0.72%

NASDAQ

12,998.50
-114.14
0.87%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2971
British Pound	0.7349
Canadian Dollar	1.2730
Chinese Yuan	6.3804
Euro	0.8264

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7524
Indian Rupee	72.8546
Japanese Yen	104.0140
Malaysian Ringgit	4.0158
New Zealand Dollar	1.4022
Philippine Peso	47.2385

Russian Ruble	72.9947
Singapore Dollar	1.3297
South Korean Won	1083.21
Swiss Franc	0.8905
Taiwan Dollar	27.5995
Thailand Baht	30.0340

Nation

Biden, Harris take break from inaugural prep to mark MLK day

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two days from the inauguration, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris pitched in on Martin Luther King Jr. Day service projects as a militarized and jittery Washington prepared for a swearing-in that will play out under extraordinary security.

Biden and his wife, Jill, joined an assembly line in the parking lot of Philabundance, an organization that distributes food to people in need, and helped fill about 150 boxes with fresh fruit and nonperishables.

As Biden and Harris took breaks from their inaugural preparations to honor the civil rights hero Monday, outgoing President Donald Trump remained out of public view at the White House for the sixth straight day. In past years, Trump has marked the holiday with unannounced visits to the King memorial in Washington, but no such outing was expected this year.

Such a visit would have been complicated because Washington has become a fortress city of roadblocks and barricades before Wednesday's inauguration, as security officials work to avoid more violence following the Jan. 6 riot by a pro-Trump mob at the U.S. Capitol.

In a measure of how nervous the capital city has become, U.S. Capitol Police on Monday briefly locked down the Capitol complex and paused inaugural rehearsals

after fire broke out at a nearby homeless encampment.

Biden transition officials, including incoming Homeland Security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall and the deputy attorney general nominee, Lisa Monaco, held a videoconference with acting heads and career staff from national security agencies to discuss the security situation surrounding Inauguration Day.

Harris played down any personal security concerns, saying she's "very much looking forward to being sworn in."

"I will walk there, to that moment, proudly with my head up and my shoulders back," Harris told reporters after volunteering at a food bank.

Still, Washington residents were on high alert and much of the city felt desolate, with large swaths of the area around the Capitol, White House and National Mall sealed off from all but authorized personnel.

Katie Henke, 40, a southwest D.C. resident, said the city felt on edge. She's concerned enough that she packed a "go-bag" with clothes and other personal items in case she feels she must flee her neighborhood.

"This is legitimately scary," she said. "Between the pandemic and Trump, I feel like our country is at a weak and vulnerable point. And we know there are forces inside and outside the country that see that vulnerability as an opportunity to do something."

Biden to propose 8-year citizenship path for immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden plans to unveil a sweeping immigration bill on Day One of his administration, hoping to provide an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without legal status, a massive reversal from the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies.

The legislation puts Biden on track to deliver on a major campaign promise important to Latino voters and other immigrant communities after four years of President Donald Trump's restrictive policies and mass deportations. It provides one of the fastest pathways to citizenship for those living without legal status of any measure in recent years, but it fails to include the traditional trade-off of enhanced border security favored by many Republicans, making passage in a narrowly divided Congress in doubt.

Expected to run hundreds of pages, the bill is set to be introduced after Biden takes the oath of office Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the legislation and granted anonymity to discuss it.

As a candidate, Biden called Trump's actions on immigration an "unrelenting assault" on American values and said he would "undo the damage" while continuing to maintain border enforcement.

Under the legislation, those living in the U.S. as of Jan. 1, 2021, without legal status would have a five-year path to temporary legal status, or a green card, if they pass background checks, pay taxes and fulfill other basic requirements. From there, it's a three-year path to naturalization, if they decide to pursue citizenship.

For some immigrants, the process would be quicker. So-called Dreamers, the young people who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children, as well as

Some 25,000 National Guard troops were being dispatched across the city to bolster security. Monuments—including the King memorial—are closed to the public until after Wednesday's inaugural events.

Harris also resigned from her Senate seat Monday. She offered thanks to her California constituents in a farewell video posted on social media "for the honor of representing the place of my birth, as a

proud daughter of California."

First lady Melania Trump also posted a farewell video in which she thanked Americans for the "greatest honor of my life," but she made no mention of the incoming Biden administration. Her husband has already announced he will not attend the inauguration—he's the first outgoing president to skip the ceremony in 152 years—and will depart for Florida hours before Biden's swearing-in.

Muslim countries.

During the Democratic primary, Biden consistently named immigration action as one of his "day one" priorities, pointing to the range of executive powers he could invoke to reverse Trump's policies.

Biden allies and even some Republicans have identified immigration as a major issue where the new administration could find common ground with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and enough other GOP senators to avoid the stalemate that has vexed administrations of both parties for decades.

That kind of major win—even if it involves compromise—could be critical as Biden looks for legislative victories in a closely divided Congress, where Republicans are certain to oppose other Biden priorities that involve rolling back some of the GOP's 2017 tax cuts and increasing federal spending.



Flags are placed on the National Mall, looking towards the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial, ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Monday, Jan. 18, 2021, in Washington.

Coronavirus deaths rising in 30 US states amid winter surge

NEW YORK (AP)—Coronavirus deaths are rising in nearly two-thirds of American states as a winter surge pushes the overall toll toward 400,000 amid warnings that a new, highly contagious variant is taking hold.

As Americans observed a national holiday Monday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo pleaded with federal authorities to curtail travel from countries where new variants are spreading.

Referring to new versions detected in Britain, South Africa and Brazil, Cuomo said: "Stop those people from coming here.... Why are you allowing people to fly into this country and then it's too late?"

The U.S. government has already curbed travel from some of the places where the new variants are spreading—such as Britain and Brazil—and recently it announced that it would require proof of a negative COVID-19 test for anyone flying into the country.

But the new variant seen in Britain is already spreading in the U.S., and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection has warned that it will probably become the dominant version in the country by March. The CDC said the variant is about 50% more contagious than the virus that is causing the bulk of

cases in the U.S.

While the variant does not cause more severe illness, it can cause more hospitalizations and deaths simply because it spreads more easily. In Britain, it has aggravated a severe outbreak that has swamped hospitals, and it has been blamed for sharp leaps in cases in some other European countries.

As things stand, many U.S. states are already under tremendous strain. The seven-day rolling average of daily deaths is rising in 30 states and the District of Columbia, and on Monday the U.S. death toll surpassed 398,000, according to data collected by Johns Hopkins University—by far the highest recorded death toll of any country in the world.

Ellie Murray, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Boston University School of Public Health, said cases have proliferated in part because of gatherings for Christmas and New Year—and compounded previous surges from Thanksgiving and the return of students to schools and universities in the fall.

The pace of any further spread will depend on whether those who did gather with family and friends quarantined afterward or went back to school or work in person, she said.

Asia

Japan urges South Korea to drop wartime compensation demands

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's foreign minister accused South Korea on Monday of worsening already strained ties by making "illegal" demands for compensation for the sexual abuse of Korean women and use of forced laborers during World War II.

Toshimitsu Motegi, in a diplomatic policy speech in parliament, said a recent South Korean court ruling ordering Japan to compensate 12 South Korean women who were sexually abused in Japanese military brothels during the war was "an abnormal development absolutely unthinkable under international law and bilateral relations."

"We strongly urge South Korea to correct the violation of international law as soon as possible" and restore healthy relations, Motegi said.

The Seoul Central District Court ruled on Jan. 8 that the Japanese government must give 100 million won (\$91,360) to each of 12 elderly women who filed lawsuits in 2013 over their wartime suffering as "comfort women."

They were among tens of thousands of women across Japanese-occupied Asia and the Pacific who were sent to front-

line Japanese army brothels.

The ruling worsened tensions between the two countries, whose relations had already plunged to the lowest level in decades over earlier South Korean rulings on Japan's actions during its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea's Supreme Court in 2018 ordered Japanese companies to provide reparations to some South Koreans who were forced to work in their factories during the war.

The dispute over forced labor escalated into a trade dispute and prompted South Korea to threaten to scrap a 2016 military intelligence-sharing agreement with Japan, a key component of their regional defense cooperation with the United States.

Japan has protested the court rulings, saying all wartime compensation issues were settled under a 1965 treaty normalizing relations in which Japan provided \$500 million in economic assistance.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that it "wouldn't be desirable for bilateral relations" if Seoul and Tokyo fail to find a diplomatic solution

before South Korean courts proceed with liquidating the local assets of the Japanese companies that were seized after they refused to compensate the Korean wartime laborers.

Moon also described the "comfort women" ruling as "honestly a complicating" development for government efforts to improve relations with Japan. Speaking at a news conference, he did not give details of any possible diplomatic efforts.

Motegi called South Korea "an important neighbor" and said its cooperation with Japan and the United States was "indispensable for regional security," including the response to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

Japan, under a 1995 semi-governmental Asian Women's Fund, offered payments and apology letters to certified victims of its wartime sexual abuse from five countries, settling disputes with all but South Korea. Sixty-one South Korean victims received 5 million yen (\$48,200) each from the 367 million yen (\$3.5 million) fund, according to Japan's foreign ministry, but many others declined to accept the money.

Moon urges Biden to learn from Trump's N. Korea diplomacy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president on Monday urged the incoming Biden administration to build upon the achievements and learn from the failures of President Donald Trump's diplomatic engagement with North Korea.

A dovish liberal and the son of northern war refugees, Moon Jae-in had lobbied hard to help set up Trump's three summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but their diplomacy stalemated over disagreements over easing crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament.

Biden has accused Trump of chasing the spectacle of summits rather than meaningful curbs on the North's nuclear capabilities. North Korea has a history of staging weapons tests and other provocations to test new U.S. presidents, and Kim vowed to strengthen his nuclear weapons program in recent political speeches that were seen as aimed at pressuring the incoming Biden administration.

The South Korean leader has been desperate to keep alive a positive atmosphere for dialogue in the face of Kim's

vows to further expand a nuclear and missile program that threatens Asian U.S. allies and the American homeland.

And while Moon acknowledged that Biden is likely to try a different approach than Trump, he stressed that Biden could still learn from Trump's successes and failures in dealing with North Korea.

During a mostly virtual news conference in Seoul, Moon claimed that Kim still had a "clear willingness" to denuclearize if Washington and Pyongyang could find mutually agreeable steps to decrease the nuclear threat and ensure the North's security. Most experts see Kim's recent comments as further evidence he will maintain his weapons program to ensure his regime's survival.

When asked about the North's efforts to increase its ballistic capacity to strike targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. bases there, Moon said the South could sufficiently cope with such threats with its missile defense systems and other military assets.

"The start of the Biden administration provides a new opportunity to start over talks

between North Korea and the United States and also between South and North Korea," which have stalled amid the stalemate in nuclear negotiations, Moon said.

"The North Korean efforts to expand its nuclear program and acquire more weapons systems are all because we have not succeeded yet in reaching an agreement over denuclearization and establishing peace. These are problems that could all be solved by success in dialogue," he said.

During an eight-day congress of North Korea's Workers' Party that ended last week, Kim described the United States as his country's "foremost principal enemy." He didn't entirely rule out talks, but he said the fate of bilateral relations would depend on whether Washington abandons its hostile policy toward Pyongyang.

The erosion in inter-Korean relations have been a major setback to Moon, who met Kim three times in 2018 while expressing ambitions to reboot inter-Korean economic engagement when possible, voicing optimism that international sanctions could end and allow such projects.

World

Guatemala troops, police break up caravan of weary migrants

VADO HONDO, Guatemala (AP)—Guatemalan police and soldiers on Monday broke up a group of hundreds of migrants who had spent two nights stuck at a roadblock on a rural highway.

Some migrants threw rocks while authorities launched tear gas and pushed the migrants with their riot shields back down the highway. Migrants with children were more gently prodded back the way they had come.

The year's first migrant caravan had largely stalled two days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. Biden has promised to take a different approach to immigration and even though immediate changes at the U.S. border are not expected, it has created some hope in Central America.

A steep mountain and tall wall flanking the rural highway have allowed Guatemalan authorities to bottle up the group that had numbered about 2,000 when it pushed into Guatemala Friday night.

Their ranks have reduced through attrition as some migrants have agreed to be bused back to the Honduran border. A Guatemalan official repeated that offer Monday morning, telling the migrants they had buses at the ready for those who wanted to return to Honduras. A smaller number have been forcefully sent back af-



Guatemalan soldiers and police block Honduran migrants from advancing toward the US border, on the highway in Vado Hondo, Guatemala, Monday, Jan. 18, 2021.

ter scuffling with authorities who held their line with baton strikes and tear gas.

The primary objective of the authorities' midday push was to reopen the highway. Police and soldiers banged their riot shields intimidatingly as an official told the migrants to clear the highway. The migrants scattered, but remained in the general area.

Guatemala's immigration authorities said Monday that another group of about 800 migrants had been located about 25 miles (40 kilometers) farther north along the highway near Rio Hondo. They are also blocked from advancing there, but authorities said they successfully negotiated opening one lane of traffic so vehicles could pass.

Pedro Brolo Vila, Guatemala's foreign affairs secretary, criticized Honduras' government Monday for not

doing more to dissuade the caravan. He said Guatemala had been preparing since December for this caravan, including meetings with their counterparts in Honduras, Mexico and the United States.

Guatemala was "totally surprised" by Honduras' lack of cooperation, Brolo said. He said Honduras had promised to put out a large contingent of security forces to dissuade the migrants from reaching Guatemala's border. Instead, Honduran security forces accompanied the migrants "toward our borders where regrettably we saw how they entered violently, violating Guatemala's territorial sovereignty."

He also said Guatemalan authorities had detected fake COVID-19 test results among the migrants who stopped to register their entrance to Guatemala.

Venezuela's Maduro sends oxygen to Brazil amid virus spike

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has authorized the dispatch of oxygen to Brazil to help its South American neighbor treat people sickened amid another wave of the coronavirus, despite frosty relations between the two governments and Venezuela's own lack of hospital supplies.

Maduro approved departure for a convoy of six tanker trucks loaded with oxygen in a national broadcast Sunday on state TV. It's destined for the city of Manaus in the northern state of Amazonas.

"Let this oxygen arrive quickly to the people of Brazil," Maduro said. "Let the people of Brazil know that to the best of our ability, we are ready to support Brazil."

Venezuela is gripped by a deepening humanitarian crisis, which critics blame on

the failed socialist policies of Maduro's government. Tensions are high between Maduro and the right-wing government of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

Brazil's government is one of more than 50 nations around the world that recognize opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate leader, rather than Maduro, who maintains control over the nation.

The health secretariat of Amazonas state said in a statement the Venezuelan government had donated the oxygen in the trucks, totaling 107,000 cubic meters (3.8 million cubic feet). That is the equivalent of about one and a half days of oxygen demand in the state capital Manaus, according to figures released last week.

White Martins, the multinational that provides oxygen to Manaus' public hospitals,

previously said it could divert some of its supply from Venezuela. It didn't immediately comment on whether it was involved in this shipment of oxygen from Venezuela to Manaus.

A second coronavirus wave in Brazil has overflowed hospitals in Manaus, exhausting oxygen supplies. The Venezuelan trucks were expected to reach Manaus as early as Monday night, according to the Amazonas health secretariat's statement.

The city is receiving an average of four Brazil air force flights per day to bolster oxygen stocks, along with one shipment per day from the city of Belem near the mouth of the Amazon river, the statement said.

Venezuela reported its first coronavirus cases in mid-March and immediately imposed quarantine measures.

Good Housekeeping

By **DANIEL NEMAN**
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

You may as well admit it. It's nothing to be ashamed of. You do it. We all do it.

When you cook with maple syrup, and some of the syrup clings tenaciously to the measuring spoon or cup, you wipe it out with your finger and then lick the syrup off the finger. Don't you?

Of course you do. That's the treat for the cook, a little something extra you deserve for doing the work. A present to yourself. And it is a well-known scientific fact that maple syrup licked off a finger has no calories. It is an inexplicable scientific phenomenon that is equally true of syrup licked off of spatulas.

Whenever winter rolls around, I have maple syrup on my mind and on my finger—wait, never mind, it's not on my finger anymore. Usually beginning in late January, when the nights are cold but the temperature rises above freezing by day, the sap in sugar maple trees starts to flow.

Many people, if not most, do not think to use maple syrup for cooking savory dishes. That's a shame. The sweet maple flavor adds a boost to any number of foods. It's a must-have on roasted butternut squash or Brussels sprouts. It's great as an ingredient in salty spiced nuts. And it is a delight mixed in with pumpkin soup.

I tested the versatility of maple syrup with four dishes. One, admittedly, is a dessert. Actually, two were, but the less said about Baked Maple Egg Custard, the better. Along with the one dessert, I also used nature's golden nectar in two meat courses and in a salad.

I should point out that I used real maple syrup. I highly recommend it, though it is not cheap. Imitation maple syrup should also work with these recipes, though the results won't be as satisfying.

Both of the meat dishes are roasts, with the maple flavor forming the main basis of the glaze. The dishes are similar in technique—you coat the meat in the glaze most of the way through the cooking process, to avoid burning the sugars in the glaze—but the flavors are quite different.

Specifically, one has bourbon. The other has the life-affirming mixture of cinnamon and cloves. Both derive considerable benefit from a kick of heat, which amplifies the effect of the maple, but you could leave out the spice if you do not like it.

Maple-Bourbon Glazed Chicken, it should not be a surprise to learn, is the one that had bourbon. Bourbon and chicken is a classic combination; and maple is one of the primary tasting notes of many kinds of good bourbon. Put it all together, and you should have a fine meal.

Which I did. The syrup adds a luscious sweetness to the skin, which brings out the natural gentle taste of the chicken, while the bourbon kicks in an earthy counterpoint that lingers pleasantly on the palate.

It is a great way to take an ordinary roast chicken and turn it into something fine.

Roast Pork Loin with Maple Glaze is even easier to make, but it is absolutely just as satisfying.

The natural sweetness of the pork is intensified by the maple glaze, of course, but not to the point where it becomes cloying. Perhaps it is tempered by the cinnamon and cloves, a combination that to my mind makes nearly everything taste better.

Nearly everything, but especially, as it turns out, pork and maple syrup. Come to think of it, the same glaze would be equally rewarding on chicken, but I wouldn't bother putting the bourbon glaze on the pork. Why would you want to, when you can just whip one up with maple syrup, cinnamon and cloves?

My salad dressing, Maple-Sherry Vinaigrette, is appealingly nonassertive. I don't like a dressing with too much of a bite, and it turns out that one way to calm down an aggressive vinegar is to add a little maple syrup.

That's important, because sherry vinegar, by definition, must have at least 7% acidity. That's higher than most other vinegars, so it needs a shot of maple syrup to make it more palatable on salads.

On the other hand, sherry vinegar also has perhaps the best flavor: rounded yet dry, often with a hint of nuttiness and a taste of fruit. The restaurant from which I snagged the recipe uses the dressing on a salad with peppery arugula, sharp and creamy blue cheese and toasted walnuts. The dressing makes the perfect accompaniment.

The dessert I made is a staple, Maple-Walnut Pie. It is reminiscent of pecan pie, without the shock of sugar that sends A1C numbers into the stratosphere.

Walnuts and maple syrup—a pairing that should always be encouraged, including on top of waffles or pancakes—are baked together in a pie with more eggs than you might guess (four) and hints and dashes of other goodies such as vanilla, butter, cinnamon and even a squirt of lemon juice.

Of all the dishes I made, the pie features the flavor of maple most of all. With a dessert, that is to be desired. In combination, the tastes



TNS
Roast pork loin with maple glaze as photographed on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020.



TNS
Maple-walnut pie as photographed on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020.

It's not just for pancakes

of maple syrup and walnuts is simply wonderful.

And the Baked Maple Egg Custard? I thought we agreed not to talk about that.

■■■ MAPLE-BOURBON GLAZED CHICKEN

Yield: 4 to 6 servings
2/3 cup maple syrup
2/3 cup bourbon
1/4 cup dark brown sugar,
firmly packed
1/2 teaspoon crushed red

pepper or cayenne pepper, or to taste, optional

- 1 (4-pound) chicken
 1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 2. In a small saucepan, mix together maple syrup, bourbon, brown sugar and pepper, if using. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer until it reaches the thickness of a syrup. You will have about 1 cup of liquid. Allow to cool and thicken. If you try to apply the glaze to the chicken when the glaze is too hot, it will roll off the chicken.
 3. Generously season chicken with salt and pepper. Place in an uncovered roasting pan and cook 55 minutes. Brush chicken liberally with glaze, and return to oven. Cook 30 more minutes or so, until glaze is glossy and dark, and chicken's juices run clear, not pink. If the glaze becomes too dark while cooking, cover bird with foil.
 4. Serve hot or cold; eat within two days.
- Per serving (based on 6): 576 calories; 28 g fat; 8 g saturated fat; 197 mg cholesterol; 46 g protein; 32 g carbohydrate; 29 g sugar; no fiber; 199 mg sodium; 59 mg calcium
Adapted from "Salt Sugar Smoke" by Diana Henry

ROAST PORK LOIN WITH MAPLE GLAZE

- Yield: 8 servings
- 1 (3-pound) boneless pork loin roast
 - 2 teaspoons neutral oil, such as canola
 - 1 1/4 cups maple syrup
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1. Place a rack in the bottom 1/3 of the oven and preheat to 375 degrees.
 2. Season the pork with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a 12-inch skillet until just smoking. Brown the roast well on all sides, about 10 minutes. Do not clean skillet. Transfer roast to a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Cook about 50 to 70 minutes, flipping roast over halfway through cooking. Go on to Steps 3 and 4 while the meat roasts.
 3. While the meat cooks in the oven, pour fat out of the skillet.

Return to medium-high heat and add syrup, cinnamon, cloves and cayenne pepper, scraping up any browned bits stuck to skillet. Simmer until slightly thickened and fragrant, about 30 seconds.

4. With about 20 to 30 minutes left to cook, brush the glaze over the roast or simply roll the roast over in the glaze. Pour the rest of the glaze over the meat and return to oven. If the glaze in the pan begins to dry out and burn, simply stir in 1/4 cup hot water. Meat is done when it reaches an internal temperature of 140 to 145 degrees.

Per serving: 455 calories; 20 g fat; 4 g saturated fat; 99 mg cholesterol; 37 g protein; 35 g carbohydrate; 33 g sugar; no fiber; 101 mg sodium; 95 mg calcium

Recipe from "The America's Test Kitchen Healthy Family Cookbook" by the editors at America's Test Kitchen

MAPLE-SHERRY VINAIGRETTE

- Yield: 10 servings
- 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons real maple syrup
 - 1 shallot, minced
 - 1/8 teaspoon salt
 - Black pepper to taste
 - 7 tablespoons (1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons) olive oil
- Note: Mustard's Grill serves this dressing with a salad made from arugula, mixed lettuces, watercress, crumbled blue cheese and toasted walnuts.

Whisk together vinegar, syrup, shallot, salt and pepper. Gradually whisk in the oil and continue to whisk until fully incorporated. Taste and adjust the seasoning.

Per serving: 97 calories; 10 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; no cholesterol; no protein; 3 g carbohydrate; 3 g sugar; no fiber; 30 mg sodium; 6 mg calcium

Adapted from "Mustards Grill Napa Valley Cookbook" by Cindy Pawlcyn with Brigid Callinan

MAPLE-WALNUT PIE

- Yield: 6 to 8 servings
- 4 large eggs
 - 3/4 cup real maple syrup
 - 2 teaspoons lemon juice
 - Dash of cinnamon
 - 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) melted butter
 - 1/2 tablespoon vanilla extract
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups walnut pieces
 - 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust
1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 2. In a large bowl, beat together eggs, syrup, lemon juice, cinnamon, butter, vanilla and salt until light and smooth.
 3. Place pie crust in pie pan, if necessary. Add walnuts, and distribute evenly. Pour in maple mixture and bake 30 minutes, or until solid. Serve warm or cold, with whipped cream or ice cream.

Life & Style

Garth Brooks joins lineup of entertainers at Biden inaugural

NEW YORK (AP)—Add Garth Brooks to the lineup of entertainers at the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

"This is a great day in our household," the country music superstar said during a virtual press conference Monday, two

days before Biden is to be sworn in. "This is not a political statement. This is a statement of unity."

Brooks, who joins Lady Gaga and Jennifer Lopez among others, performed during the inaugural celebration

of President Barack Obama in 2009. He turned down a chance to play for President Donald Trump in 2017, citing a scheduling conflict.

Invited by incoming first lady Jill Biden, Brooks has known the Bidens for more



FILE - In this March 4, 2020, file photo, Garth Brooks performs on stage during the 2020 Gershwin Prize Honoree's Tribute Concert at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington.

PHOTO BY BRENT N. CLARKE/INVISION/AP

than a decade, when Joe Biden was Obama's vice president.

Brooks said that for this week's inaugural, he will perform solo doing "broken down, bare-bones stuff," and hinted at covering material by songwriters from outside the U.S.

He does not plan to sing his socially conscious "We Shall Be Free," which he performed at the Obama inaugural.

Brooks praised the Bidens for being "hellbent on making things good" and said he welcomed the chance to help the country heal.

Heavy metal guitarist photographed at Capitol riot charged

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A heavy metal guitarist who was photographed with the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol and is accused of spraying police officers with a pepper-based bear spray irritant has been arrested, the FBI said.

Jon Ryan Schaffer turned himself in Sunday after he was featured on an FBI poster seeking the public's help in identifying rioters, said Chris Bavender, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Indianapolis office. He has been charged with several felony counts, including engaging in an act of physical violence and knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds

without lawful entry.

It wasn't immediately known if Schaffer, a central Indiana native who is a member of the band "Iced Earth," had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf and online federal court records Monday didn't yet list his case.

The Indianapolis Star reported that Schaffer had been sought after, according to a federal statement about his case, he was seen in photographs and on video "engaging in verbal altercations with Capitol Police inside the Capitol building" and holding a container of bear spray that's sold by outdoor retailers.

Schaffer is a supporter

of President Donald Trump who has voiced various conspiracy theories, once telling a German news station that a shadowy criminal enterprise is trying to run the world under a communist agenda and that he and others are prepared to fight, with violence.

According to a statement filed in federal court by an FBI agent, Schaffer "has long held far-right extremist views." The statement said that: "During an interview in 2017, Schaffer ... referred to the federal government as a 'criminal enterprise.' During that same interview, Schaffer stated that the 2016 presidential election was 'rigged.'"

Sen. Josh Hawley has new publisher for 'Big Tech' book

NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Josh Hawley has found a new publisher after his book was dropped by Simon & Schuster in the wake of the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

The conservative publisher Regnery announced Monday that Hawley's *The Tyranny of Big Tech*

will come out this spring.

"Regnery is proud to stand in the breach with him. And the warning in his book about censorship obviously couldn't be more urgent," Regnery president and publisher Thomas Spence said in a statement.

Hawley, a Republican from

Missouri, has been widely condemned for his encouragement of the Jan. 6 protest that ended with a violent mob rampaging through the Capitol. Thousands had gathered that day as Congress voted to formally certify Joe Biden's win over Trump. Hawley and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, also a Regnery author, led objections in the Senate to Biden's victory, citing baseless claims the election was stolen.



Hawley

Trump baby protest blimp enters Museum of London collection

LONDON (AP)—The Trump Baby Blimp will live on long after its namesake has left the White House.

The Museum of London said Monday that it had added the giant balloon, which depicts Donald Trump as a screaming orange baby, to its collection as an illustration of the protests that greeted the U.S. president when he visited the city in 2018.

"By collecting the baby blimp, we can mark the wave of feeling that washed over the city that day and capture a particular moment of resistance," Sharon Ament, the museum's director, said in a statement.

The blimp will become part of the museum's protest collection, which includes artifacts from the women's suffrage movement, peace activists who opposed the war in Iraq during the early 2000s, and more recent protests



In this file photo taken Tuesday, July 10, 2018, a six-meter high cartoon baby blimp depicts U.S. President Donald Trump in north London.

AP

against public spending cuts.

The Trump Baby Blimp was designed by a group of friends who met in a London pub to discuss how they could speak out against Trump's policies. What they came up with was a giant balloon that caricatured Trump as a screaming, dia-

pered baby clutching a smart phone and topped by a quiff of yellow hair.

The blimp flew outside the Houses of Parliament on July 13, 2018, when thousands of demonstrators crammed the streets of central London to protest Trump's visit to the capital.

Son may be hasty in plan to sign up for fatherhood

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son has been dating a girl for two or three months. She seems very nice. She has two children and is pregnant with her third child. She's due in three months. The child is not my son's.

I was told by some friends of my son that he's planning to sign the birth certificate as the father. He understands the implications. How do I convince him that, although he feels like he and this girl will be together for the long haul, this is a poor decision to make, especially because of the short length of time they have been dating?

TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

DEAR TOO MUCH, TOO SOON: Although it can be difficult to convince someone in the throes of new love, you and your son's friends should urge him to discuss this with a lawyer before signing ANYTHING. He needs input from someone who is not emotionally involved and can explain the legal ramifications of what he's considering.

Not all romances have storybook endings, but if this relationship leads to marriage in the future, he can always adopt or provide financially for the child if he wishes. I sincerely hope you and the others who care about him can get through to your son.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My college-aged granddaughter is no longer speaking to me, answering my phone calls or allowing her other grandmother (who raised her) to post anything on Facebook

where I can see what she is doing.

My granddaughter came to live with me last summer because she worked a summer job here. I asked her if she was gay, not because I think she is but as a prelude to a conversation about not allowing other girls to recruit her into a same-sex relationship as I saw in college and while teaching public school. Although I tried to explain, things have grown progressively worse.

My son and her mother married when she was 7 and divorced when she was 13. Over the years, I worked hard to develop and maintain a relationship with her. Now, she has told the other grandmother that she will never speak to me again. Was what I did so bad, and what should I do now?

OTHER GRANDMOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR OTHER: What you said wasn't "bad," but it was misinformed and heavy-handed. While same-sex relationships do happen in high school and college, young people don't usually indulge unless they are already at least bi-curious. Even then, straight people don't suddenly "turn gay."

Your granddaughter may still be trying to figure out her sexual orientation, which could be why she has reacted so strongly. If you are wise, you will allow her the time she needs to sort it out, rather than push or panic.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and I have a wonderful relationship. But I am very upset because she listens in on the speaker phone to every conversation I have with my 11-year-old grandson. I really believe we should have privacy, and I think it's

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



strange that she does this. Is she justified, since she knows I'm disturbed by speakerphones in general?

CONCERNED NANA IN THE EAST

DEAR CONCERNED: You wrote that you have a wonderful relationship with your daughter. Have you asked her why she feels monitoring your calls to your grandson is justified? From my perspective, her behavior may be hypervigilant, but whether it is justified isn't a question that someone who isn't familiar with your family dynamics can answer.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



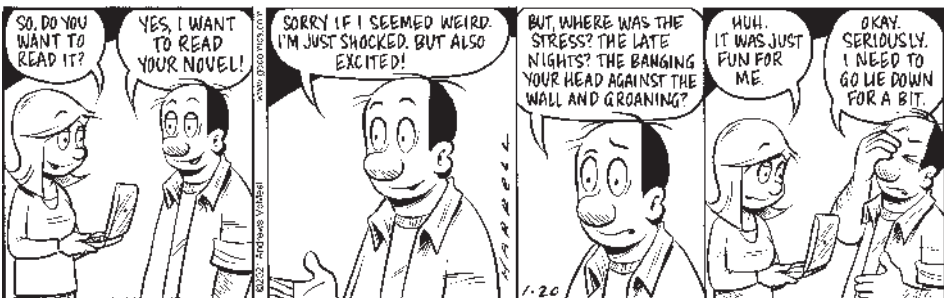
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lure
5 That girl
8 Unwanted email
12 Prefix meaning "all"
13 Pie — mode
14 Freshener scent
15 Pub tabs
17 — fever (ailed)
18 Soaks in hot water
19 Saturn, for one
21 Body art, for short
22 Vacillate
23 Use a straw
26 Physician's nickname
28 Jazz genre
31 Ella's style
33 "Platoon" locale
35 Miami — County
36 Plays
38 Pen name

DOWN

40 Gym unit
41 Follow
43 Arrest
45 Pass by
47 Scents
51 Sci-fi prefix
52 Hurdles for
54 Blind part
55 Flamenco cheer
56 Paradise zones?
58 Bottom line
59 D.C. VIPs
1 Short cuts
2 Latin 101 word
3 Con-cerning
4 Nepal's neighbor
5 American fashion designer
6 Right angle
7 Grating
8 Used an atomizer
9 Spot for cocktails and music
10 Actress Hathaway
11 Vegetarian's no-no
16 Apple tablet
20 Arced tennis shot
23 Old map letters
24 Hosp. area
25 Buffet with
27 Urban carrier
29 Poetic tribute
30 Zing
32 Oolong brewers
34 Mosque tower
37 Serena, to Venus
39 Give a dam
42 Simon of Duran
44 Cartons
45 Gaelic
46 "Damn Yankees" vamp
48 Created
49 "So be it"
50 Taxpayer IDs
53 Hearty quaff

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	O	P	S	N	I	P	S	E	A	R
I	M	A	N	E	R	R	O	S	L	O
S	A	I	L	A	W	A	Y	U	S	E
O	R	L	M	T	N	G	R	O	S	S
S	O	S	D	N	A					
S	L	A	W	S	C	O	U	P	L	E
C	A	N		W	A	G	P	E	A	
H	O	T	S	H	O	T	I	L	I	E
S	A	W	O	D	E					
A	R	R	A	Y	A	V	F	R	I	T
P	O	O	L	S	K	I	A	R	E	A
T	B	S		P	I	N	V	E	R	A
S	E	E	S	A	N	E	S	P	A	H

Yesterday's answer 1-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Skeet Ulrich, 51; Rainn Wilson, 55; Bill Maher, 65; David Lynch, 75.

Happy Birthday: Keep in mind who you are dealing with this year and how best to use your skills, knowledge and insight to reach your goal. It will take your undivided attention and willingness to adapt to the changes taking place if you want to come out ahead. Dig deep, analyze and make adjustments that will help you maintain your position. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 26, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay close attention to what's going on around you. Distance yourself from situations that appear risky, manipulative or underhanded. Don't let anyone rope you into spending more than you can afford or taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a sound decision, not a snap decision. Indecisiveness regarding your work, position, status or what to do with your life will result in confusion and worry. Time is on your side; explore your options, and don't feel pressured to act prematurely. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen carefully, take notes and ask questions. What you learn today will help you get ahead in life, love or at work. Your sensitivity toward others will help you pick up additional information that will be valuable when negotiating. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Reach out to people who share your beliefs and interests. The relationships you form will

encourage you to use your imagination more and to focus on new possibilities. Accept the inevitable, and refuse to let anyone get in your way. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An offer will have a hidden agenda. Go over the fine print, make adjustments and refuse to let anyone cause problems for you at work. Protect your reputation, use your intelligence and be prepared for whatever comes your way. Don't overspend. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of pace will give you a chance to evaluate a confusing situation. A partnership will encourage you to look at the positive, deal with the negative and proceed with confidence. Trust your instincts. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Trust what you know, despite opposition. Work you can do from home will give insight into an alternative way to earn more money. Check out your options. Be clear about the way you feel and what you intend to do. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A problem with a colleague, friend or relative will surface if you procrastinate or change your mind. Be careful how you approach situations that depend on others. Use diplomacy and the power of persuasion to get your way. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your life simple. Avoid overspending and excessiveness. Don't believe or trust someone who is vague or too complimentary. Consider making a lifestyle change that incorporates better health, moderation and educational pursuits that can help you get ahead. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set reasonable goals, and stick to your plans. Refuse to let trivial matters interfere. Anger will take away from what you are trying to accomplish. Set high standards, and focus on getting results. A personal change is worth considering. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speak up, and share your thoughts and intentions. Don't fold under pressure or make an abrupt change because someone else does. Follow your heart, do your own thing and refuse to let anyone get in your way. Use charm to get your way. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let go of the past. Take care of your health and physical well-being. Don't take unnecessary risks or make hasty decisions that might result in illness or injury. Put your energy where it counts most and will bring you the highest returns. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, innovative and just. You are demonstrative and complex. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5	4						3	8
7		8				2	6	
9			5	8	2			1
	2						8	
8			6		9			2
6								3
2			4	1	3			9
	9						1	
		1	7	9	5	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	7	6	4	2	3	8	5	9
5	8	3	9	6	7	4	1	2
4	2	9	8	5	1	3	6	7
9	4	1	3	8	5	2	7	6
3	6	2	1	7	9	5	8	4
7	5	8	2	4	6	9	3	1
8	1	5	7	9	4	6	2	3
6	3	4	5	1	2	7	9	8
2	9	7	6	3	8	1	4	5

Difficulty Level: ★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IN A POND

Solution: 5 letters

S T B H S I F N U S E F R O T
S A U S R O S E T T E K A N S
E D L N Y L P P U S P R A C L
R P L A D R I B K C A L B D E
C O H I M K O B L N P R T A S
R L E L E A E S O U E W A P S
E E A S T A N D E E L G A Y U
T S D M V O G D D N G L S L M
A U E E R R E I E A Y A I I C
W N R E U K N V E R N A L L E
O G H T C G K C U D S T L E L
R E S O L E L I D O C O R C E
M E T B E E T L E S D A O T R
S S E N O T S E L I T P E R Y
L E E C H E S M U S S O P O R

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1/20

Algae, Beaver, Beetles, Blackbird, Bluegill, Boatmen, Breeding, Bullhead, Carp, Celery, Clay, Crocodile, Duck, Geese, Herons, Leeches, Lily Pad, Mussels, Newt, Opossums, Orfs, Pike, Plant, Reptiles, Rosette, Salamanders, Sand, Snails, Snake, Stocked, Stones, Sturgeon, Sunfish, Supply, Tadpoles, Toads, Turtles, Vernal, Watercress, Worms

Yesterday's Answer: Motorsport

Treasures 24 through 42 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Nets edge Bucks in Eastern powers duel



NEW YORK (AP)—James Harden missed a jumper with a chance for the lead, tracked down the rebound and fired it out to a wide-open Kevin Durant.

Plays like that are why the Brooklyn Nets will be such tough opponents after reuniting the multi-time scoring champions. Even when teams stop one superstar, another might be there waiting.

"This is what they do. They wake up, come to the game and they score 30," Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "If you're not aggressive and you're not locked in against them, they're going to score 50."

Durant made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 36 seconds left, Harden had 34 points and 12 assists, and the Nets edged the Bucks 125-123 on Monday night. They are 2-0 since last week's acquisition of Harden, who is averaging 33 points and 13 assists in his new uniform.

"We're still trying to find our way and we've still got room to improve, but it's a solid start," Durant said.

Durant finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and six assists to give the Nets their fourth straight victory in a game in which two of the East's best went toe-to-toe right down to a tense finish that ended when Khriston Middleton missed a potential winning 3-pointer from the corner.

Warriors 115, Lakers 113

In Los Angeles, Stephen Curry scored 26 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 23 and the Golden State Warriors rallied from a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the Lakers.

LeBron James' 3-pointer gave the Lakers a 97-83 advantage early in the fourth before the Warriors battled back. They trailed 106-97 with 5:52 remaining before going on a 15-2 run that gave Golden State its first lead. Oubre had tied it at 108 with a driving layup and Draymond Green's layup with 2:40 remaining gave the Warriors their first lead of the night.

James had a chance to win it at the end, but missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer as the Lakers had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Spurs 125, Trail Blazers 104

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points, DeMar DeRozan had 20 points and 11 assists and San Antonio beat Portland.

Rudy Gay and Patty Mills came off the bench for 21 points apiece as the Spurs' reserves outscored Portland's backups 59-24.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 35 points

The Spurs took over late in the third quarter and went on an 11-0 run early in the fourth to lead 95-82.

Hawks 108, Timberwolves 97

In Atlanta, Clint Capela had 23 points and 15 rebounds, DeAndre Hunter scored 25 and Atlanta beat Minnesota.

The Hawks, wearing black, tan and white uniforms with "MLK" sewn across the chest to commemorate the national holiday honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., snapped a two-game skid. They had dropped six of seven.



Trae Young had 20 points and 13 assists for Atlanta.

Heat 113, Pistons 107

In Miami, Bam Adebayo had 28 points and 11 rebounds and the short-handed Heat got their biggest comeback win of the season, rallying from 19 down to beat Detroit and snap a three-game slide.

Goran Dragic scored 22 points for the Heat, who got 18 apiece from Duncan Robinson and Kendrick Nunn. Miami was again without Jimmy Butler and Avery Bradley (virus protocols), Tyler Herro (neck) and Meyers Leonard (shoulder).

Jerami Grant had 27 points for Detroit, but his layup that could have gotten the Pistons within three was blocked by Adebayo with 31 seconds left. Wayne Ellington made seven 3-pointers and scored 24 for the Pistons, who got 21 from Derrick Rose and 15 from Mason Plumlee.

Knicks 91, Magic 84

In New York, RJ Barrett had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Julius Randle added 21 points and 17 rebounds to lead New York past Orlando.

Elfrid Payton chipped in with 12 points and rookie

guard Immanuel Quickley added 11 for the Knicks, who won their second straight.

Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 14 rebounds for Orlando, which lost its sixth in a row. Aaron Gordon had 18 points and 17 rebounds while Terrence Ross added 19 points for the Magic.

Grizzlies 108, Suns 104

In Memphis, Ja Morant had 17 points and 10 assists and took a key charge late as the Grizzlies beat Phoenix for their fifth straight victory.

Grayson Allen, who fin-

ished with 16 points, converted four free throws down the stretch. Brandon Clarke also scored 17 points for Memphis.

Deandre Ayton led the Suns with 18 points and tied a season high with 16 rebounds. Mikal Bridges had 17 points, while Chris Paul finished with 16 points and seven assists for Phoenix.

Raptors 116, Mavericks 93

In Florida, Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and Pascal Siakam had a big second half, leading Toronto over Dallas.

Siakam scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half as the Raptors pulled away for their third straight victory. Chris Boucher added 21 points and OG Anunoby contributed 13 points, 11 rebounds and much of the defensive work against Dallas star Luka Doncic.

Doncic scored 15 points on 4-for-11 shooting and added seven rebounds and nine assists.

Bulls 125, Rockets 120

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 33 points, and the Bulls overcame a strong effort by Victor Oladipo in his Houston debut, beating the Rockets.

The Bulls made enough shots down the stretch to win for the second time in as many days after losing four straight by four points or fewer.

Lauri Markkanen finished with 18 points.

Oladipo looked good in his first game for Houston, pouring in 32 points. The two-time All-Star was acquired from Indiana as part of the four-team trade that sent James Harden to Brooklyn last week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	4	.667	0.0
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	0.0
Brooklyn	9	6	.600	0.5
New York	7	8	.467	2.5
Toronto	5	8	.385	3.5

Central	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	9	5	.643	0.0
Indiana	8	5	.615	0.5
Cleveland	6	7	.462	2.5
Chicago	6	8	.429	3.0
Detroit	3	10	.231	5.5

Southeast	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	6	7	.462	0.0
Orlando	6	8	.429	0.5
Charlotte	6	8	.429	0.5
Miami	5	7	.417	0.5
Washington	3	8	.273	2.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	PCT	GB
LA Lakers	11	4	.733	0.0
LA Clippers	10	4	.714	0.5
Phoenix	7	5	.583	2.5
Golden State	7	6	.538	3.0
Sacramento	5	9	.357	5.5

Southwest	W	L	PCT	GB
San Antonio	8	6	.571	0.0
Memphis	7	6	.538	0.5
Dallas	6	7	.462	1.5
New Orleans	5	7	.417	2.0
Houston	4	8	.333	3.0

Northwest	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	9	4	.692	0.0
Portland	8	6	.571	1.5
Oklahoma City	6	6	.500	2.5
Denver	6	7	.462	3.0
Minnesota	3	9	.250	5.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rapinoe, Lloyd back; Sauerbrunn named USWNT captain

FLORIDA (AP)—Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd have a lot in common.

Both are two-time World Cup champions and Olympic gold medalists.

Each has led a World Cup in goals, scored in a final, taken home the Golden Ball as the tournament's outstanding player and won a FIFA best player award.

On Monday they shared one more experience when the U.S. routed Colombia, 4-0, in the national team's first game of 2021 because neither has played a competitive game in more than 10 months—Rapinoe due to coronavirus con-

cerns and Lloyd after undergoing knee surgery.

And that game could be the first step on the final soccer journey for both.

Rapinoe will turn 36 and Lloyd 39 in July, the month the Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to open. Neither is likely to stick around for the next World Cup in 2023, so both want to make the most of whatever playing time they have left.

"From a very selfish and personal standpoint," said Rapinoe, "there was so much positive that came from this long layoff. I don't think I've been this rested my entire ca-

reer." Rapinoe spent much of 2020 quarantining with fiancée Sue Bird, an 11-time WNBA all-star.

"I actually feel really good physically and just refreshed in a lot of ways, mentally and emotionally. But I'm obviously so excited to start playing again. It was really difficult to not be out on the field with my teammates, and to not have a consistent training environment."

Lloyd said her unplanned break had also had positive consequences.

"During my career, I've had to make so many sacrifices and have never really been able to

shut off," she wrote in a recent Facebook post. "I can honestly say I was able to shut off my competitive mindset and live life to the fullest."

Despite their impressive resumes, neither Rapinoe nor Lloyd is guaranteed a starting spot on a national team that is evolving under coach Vlatko Andonovski—though the absence of forwards Alex Morgan, Tobin Heath and Christen Press from this month's training camp will lead to some extended playing time.

Meanwhile, defensive standout Becky Sauerbrunn

was named captain of the U.S. women's national soccer team on Sunday, taking over the role shared most recently by Rapinoe, Lloyd, and Alex Morgan.

The 35-year-old Sauerbrunn, a two-times World Cup champion, 2012 Olympic gold medalist and two-time National Women's Soccer League champion, previously served as co-captain of the national team from 2016-18.

Her appointment as captain was announced by head coach Vlatko Andonovski during a conference call ahead of the team's friendly against Colombia.



Packers get second shot at Buccaneers



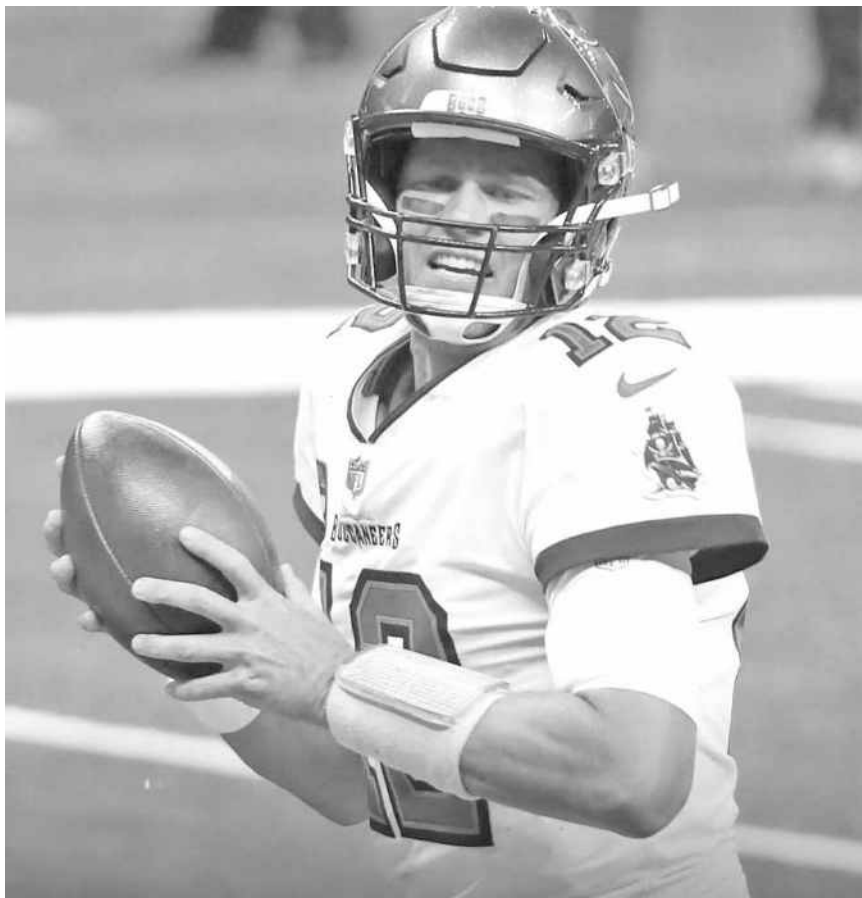
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—All that stands between Green Bay and its first Super Bowl berth in a decade is the one team that managed to shut down the Packers' high-powered offense this season.

Green Bay is the NFL's highest-scoring team but had its lowest point total of the season in a 38-10 loss at Tampa Bay back on Oct. 18. The Packers (14-3) have a chance to avenge that defeat Sunday when they host the Buccaneers (13-5) in the NFC championship game.

"I think our team has come a long way from that day, but everything's just words at this point," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said Monday. "You've got to go out there and you've got to have a great week of preparation and you've got to go earn it on the field. So that'll be our mindset and that's how we'll approach it."

Aside from some second-half struggles in a loss to Indianapolis and a win over Carolina, the Packers' offense has been pretty much unstoppable since the Tampa Bay game. That didn't change Saturday in a 32-18 divisional playoff victory over the Los Angeles Rams, who entered the night leading the NFL in most defensive categories.

"We're not too worried on who's on the other side of the ball," Packers receiver Allen Lazard said after the Rams



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady, left, and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers will lead their respective teams' bid for the Super Bowl.

game. "We know who we have on our side of the ball."

The Packers earned their seventh straight victory and followed their usual winning formula: They build big leads by scoring at will early on.

They scored touchdowns on their first two possessions at Detroit. They reached the end zone on each of their first three series against Carolina and Tennessee, and in both their victories over Chicago.

They collected three touchdowns and two field goals on their first five drives against the Rams.

After throwing 48 touchdown passes with only five interceptions during the regular season, Aaron Rodgers had two more touchdown passes and ran for a score against the Rams.

"I think it's one of the greatest honors of my life to be able to lead this team," Rodgers said after the game. "To be

counted on by my teammates to bring, not just my physical play, but my presence, my emotions, my words, and I strongly believe in speaking things to life. We've been talking a lot about how a positive wave can be so powerful. I feel like we have that wave building and building and building and it's kind of been backboned by so many great people."

The Packers also started out well in their first meeting with

Tampa Bay, as they built a 10-0 lead before Rodgers threw consecutive interceptions. One was a pick-6. The other was returned to the 2-yard line to set up a touchdown.

Rodgers was 16 of 35 for 160 yards as the Packers gave up 38 straight points after taking that 10-0 lead. Now they get another shot at the Bucs with a Super Bowl appearance at stake.

"What's happened in the past at this point, it really doesn't matter," LaFleur said. "It's about what we do moving forward."

Saints entering new era

Signs point to new era dawning for the New Orleans Saints, even if an opportunity remains to keep together much of the young core that has powered the club to four straight NFC South titles.

The Saints must be ready for Drew Brees to retire after he started at quarterback for 15 years. They also must decide how to approach extension talks with prominent young players such as cornerback Marshon Lattimore, sack leader Trey Hendrickson and right tackle Ryan Ramczyk, among others.

The potential for greater-than-usual roster upheaval this offseason is why Sunday's 30-20 loss to Tampa Bay in the divisional round of the NFC playoffs was particularly disheartening for a number of Saints players.

They won their fourth consecutive NFC South title, only to come up short of a Super Bowl in a fourth straight postseason. When the previous three seasons ended, there was

relative certainty about which front-line players were likely to be back. Now, much less so.

"Guys are aware of how contracts and everything like that works and who will be leaving and different things like that," said defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins, a 2016 first-round draft choice who is scheduled to become a free agent this offseason.

Different finish for Ravens

When the Baltimore Ravens look back on their 2020 season, they'll remember rallying from a team-wide surge of COVID-19 to reach the playoffs for the third successive year before defeating Tennessee on the road for their first postseason victory since January 2015.

The Ravens will also recall their final game, a frustrating 17-3 loss on a windy night in Buffalo. The setback was particularly disappointing because their performance just wasn't up to the standard of an organization that expects nothing less than to be the last team standing.

"It's unfortunate, three years in a row being in the playoffs and not making that push to reach our full potential," receiver Willie Snead said.

Safety Chuck Clark said: "The next step for us is just to finish."

"In this offseason, it's going to be hard. It's going to burn a little bit, and it should," defensive tackle Calais Campbell said. "Hopefully, it'll push us to work as hard as we have ever worked before, and we come back and find a way to win this next year."

Bills believe they've improved since Week 6 loss to Chiefs

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Quarterback Josh Allen spent the regular season leading the Bills to a franchise-record matching 13 wins and their first AFC East title in 25 years. Buffalo's defense has done its part the past two weeks in getting the team to its first conference championship game appearance since 1994.

Both units will need to be much sharper than in a 26-17 loss to Kansas City in Week 6 if the second-seeded Bills (15-3) stand a chance of upending the top-seeded and defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (15-2) in the AFC championship game on Sunday.

The outcome three months ago left Bills coach Sean McDermott taking a sobering approach to correcting what went wrong.

"Two good opponents, I know. But the minute losing gets easy, that's not a good deal," McDermott said following the loss, which came on the heels of a 42-16 defeat at Tennessee.

"We take it hard. There's no moral victories," he added.

ed. "We've got to really take a good look at our football team and be truthful with ourselves and say, 'What do we have to get corrected?'"

Buffalo's offense finished with a season-low 206 yards, with Allen managing 122 yards passing—the third-year player's second-lowest total in a game he starts and finishes.

As for the defense, Buffalo successfully limited Patrick Mahomes to 225 yards passing, his third-lowest total of the season, and two touchdowns. The Bills were instead trampled by rookie Clyde Edwards-Helaire, who finished with a season-best 161 yards rushing.

McDermott defended his team's defensive approach by calling it a "pick your poison" choice between selling out to stop Mahomes or Edwards-Helaire.

He might have to make the same choice this weekend with the running back expected to return after missing three games with an ankle injury. Mahomes' status, however, remains uncertain after he sustained a concus-

sion in a 22-17 win over the Browns on Sunday.

If there is a bright side, the Bills have grown progressively better, particularly on defense, in having won 11 of 12 since the loss and eight straight to match the team's longest run since 1990.

Though Allen led the way with a three-touchdown outing in a playoff-opening 27-24 win over Indianapolis, the defense was the star in a 17-3 win over Baltimore on Saturday.

Aside from holding the Ravens to their lowest scoring output in 12 years, including playoffs, the Bills sealed the victory on cornerback Taron Johnson's NFL playoff-record matching 101-yard interception return in the final minute of the third quarter.

Most important, the Ravens' dynamic QB Lamar Jackson was held in check, going 14 of 24 for 162 yards with just 34 yards rushing before being knocked out of the game with a concussion on the final play of the third quarter.

The outing continued a trend: Buffalo's defense

peaking over the final stretch of the season. After allowing 273 points through a 32-30 loss at Arizona in Week 10, Buffalo has given up just 137 over the past eight games. Johnson's touchdown was the fifth scored on a return in Buffalo's past six games.

The Bills' defense might have finished 14th in the NFL in yards allowed, after ranking among the top three the previous two seasons, but it remains a prideful unit.

Defensive end Jerry Hughes was thankful Buffalo had the late playoff game on Saturday. That way, he got an opportunity to spend the early afternoon hearing TV analysts dismiss Buffalo's chances of containing Jackson and the Ravens' NFL-best running attack.

"We took it as a challenge," said Hughes, who sacked Jackson twice. "When we see the guys on TV talking about how they don't play defense in Buffalo, we're going to give up 30 points ... I think we went out there and we played like we had something to prove."

Bring on the Chiefs.

Djokovic slammed as Aussie Open tensions run high

MELBOURNE—Australia's Nick Kyrgios dismissed world No. 1 Novak Djokovic as a "tool" as a backlash grew against tennis players flown in for the Australian Open during a raging pandemic.

Kyrgios joined a wave of criticism of the Serb for reportedly issuing a list of demands for quarantined players who have arrived in Melbourne and Adelaide on chartered flights.

The arrival of more than 1,000 players and staff, including four people who tested positive, has raised hackles in a country which is largely coronavirus-free, and especially in Melbourne which came out of a four-month lockdown in October.

"Djokovic is a tool," Kyrgios tweeted, after the Serb led a chorus of player complaints about conditions in locked-down hotel rooms.

At least 72 players have been barred from leaving their rooms for two weeks after coronavirus cases were detected on their charter flights into the country.



Others are allowed out of their rooms for up to five hours a day to train under strictly-controlled conditions.

The 33-year-old Serb and reigning Australian Open champion is among several stars—others include Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka and

Rafael Nadal—who were allowed to fly into Adelaide where they enjoy better facilities such as balconies on their hotel rooms, unlike the majority in Melbourne, the Australian Open's host city.

But Djokovic reportedly issued a list of demands in a letter to Tennis Australia that included moving quarantined players into private homes with tennis courts and getting them better meals.

Australian media zeroed in on the demands, portraying them as petulant and self-

ish, while showing images of Djokovic not wearing a mask in a players' minibus, which would be required in most taxis and ride-shares in Australia.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews smashed back Djokovic's demands. "There's no special treatment here. Because the virus doesn't treat you specially, so neither do we," he said on Monday.

In Australia many are also questioning why the players and staff were flown in for the event, when tens of thousands of Australians remain stranded overseas.

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic is criticized for reportedly issuing a list of demands for quarantined players who have arrived in Melbourne and Adelaide on chartered flights.

Meanwhile Kyrgios also took aim at fellow Australian player Bernard Tomic's girlfriend, Vanessa Sierra, after she complained in an online video about cold food and having to wash her own hair in quarantine.

"I don't mind Bernie but his Mrs obviously has no perspective, ridiculous scenes," Kyrgios said on Twitter.

Djokovic's actions around the tournament are being closely watched, in part due to his seeming nonchalance about the virus in the past.

Last year, the 17-time major champion organized a series of exhibition events in the Balkans at which social distancing was minimal. He and several other players later tested positive for the virus, as well as his wife Jelena.

Despite the controversies, the Australian Open is due to begin here on Feb. 8, having already been delayed three weeks.

Sticking to best-of-5 rules

Meanwhile, Australian Open

tournament director Craig Tiley has ruled out any change in the best-of-five set format for men's singles matches at the season-opening tennis major as three more COVID-19 cases—two of them players—were reported among the international arrivals for the tournament.

Tiley, appearing on Nine Network television on Tuesday, rejected calls from some men's players to reduce Australian Open matches to best-of-three sets instead of best of five.

"We're a Grand Slam," Tiley said. "Right now, three out of five sets for the men and two out of three sets for the women is the position we plan on sticking to."

Some players have used social media to detail their perceived hardships of being in lockdown.

"These are high performing athletes and it is hard to keep a high performing athlete in a room," Tiley said. "This is the contribution that they have to make in order to get the privilege of when they do come out to compete for \$80 million (US\$62 million) in prize money."

Tiley said the positive tests among some of the arriving players and officials were not a surprise. (AP/NBC)

NMIVA

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NMIVA outgoing board members Sean Frink and Mike Pai for their time, commitment, and dedication," she added.

Peterka helped found the NMIVA in 2004 and was elected president of the association in 2008. Under her leadership, NMIVA was able to expand its training programs for coaches and technical officials as well as the Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival. NMIVA officials also revived its indoor programs through its partnership with the Public School System.

However, NMIVA just like the rest of the organizations on island took a hit from Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. Efforts to reorganize after the 2015 crisis were made more

challenging by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, so the new board will face a tough task this time when the CNMI is preparing for the hosting of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and still battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The incoming board will have the chance to hit the ground running with the FIVB technical assistance grant ready to be executed and the chance to participate in the MANGO Lemmei/Mai non-profit incubator project," Peterka said.

NMIVA is part of the Northern Marianas Sports Association and also an accredited member of the Oceania Zonal Volleyball Association, the Asian Volleyball Confederation, and the Federation Internationale de Volleyball. (Saipan Tribune)

CAROL

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quoted as saying in Georgia Tech women's tennis team's official website.

"Our No. 1 doubles team dominated this weekend and I was very happy to see that. But we still have work to do. Overall, I'm happy with our matches and we're looking forward to getting back home and competing again this upcoming weekend against some very competitive teams," Harmon added.

The Yellow Jackets will bring home their 7-0 shutout record against University of Memphis, as besides Lee, the former's five other entries in the singles event also won their respective matches. Kenya Jones topped Sophia Abrams; Ava Hrastar downed Aran Teixido Garcia; Victoria Flores defeated Alisha Reayer; Cohen edged Camile Soares; and Mahak Jain prevailed over Dolavee Tumthong.

Georgia Tech's dual match had a 3-6 format (three doubles play and six singles) with

only a point at stake in the doubles. The Yellow Jackets won two of the three games in the doubles and the sweep in the singles allowed them to blank the Tigers.

In the Bulldog Kickoff, Georgia Tech dominated University of Mississippi last Saturday, 8-2, and then edged Mississippi State University last Sunday, 7-5.

Lee played in the doubles (with fellow rookie Hrastar) against Mississippi State and lost an extended game, 5-7. The former CNMI junior play-

er had another close loss in doubles (with Cohen) against University of Memphis, 5-7.

Meanwhile, after prevailing in its first three assignments, Georgia Tech braces for a tougher competition at home this weekend—the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Kickoff. The No. 12-ranked Yellow Jackets will face No. 6 Duke, No. 22 Michigan, and No. 14 South Carolina at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex on Jan. 23 and 24 with tickets on the ITA National Team Indoor Championships at stake.

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riders (Peewee), while the afternoon heats will begin at 2pm with the season opener expected to conclude by 4pm.

MRA will hold a general membership meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm at Minatchom Atdao pavilion to discuss details of the season, including the rules and schedule of the races. All current MRA members are required to attend the meeting, while interested individuals are welcome too and can apply for membership.

As for the races, riders must sign up and pay the \$5 registration fee (per class).

MRA will be holding the point race season to determine the winner of the Top 3 plates in each class. Points will be at stake in each series and the top per-



Female riders compete in the Power Puff Class of the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 6 at the Marianas Motocross Park early this month.

JOSEPH CHIN

forming riders will be awarded with the No. 1, 2, and 3 plates.

After this weekend's kickoff race, MRA will have the

second leg on Feb. 28, third on March 28, fourth on April 25

and the fifth and sixth on May 30 and June 27, respectively.

The last race of the season is scheduled for July 25.



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Bucks in
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**Packers
get second
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol unbeaten in singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee continues her impressive showing early into her rookie season with Georgia Tech in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I, as the CNMI player has yet to drop a singles game.

After a stellar debut against University of Mississippi that saw her pulling off a come-from-behind win in the doubles (with Gia Cohen) and sweep-



ing Reka Zadori in the singles (6-3, 6-3), Lee capped the Yellow Jackets' first road trip in the spring season with another straight set victory

over University of Memphis' Laura Bente yesterday in Starkville, Mississippi.

The 19-year-old topped Bente, 6-3, 6-3, to hand Georgia Tech its third singles win in the dual match with University of Memphis. The sweep over Bente gave Lee a 3-0 record in singles, as the Georgia Tech rookie also downed Mississippi State University's Chloe Cirotte last Sunday (last Monday Saipan time), 6-0, 7-5.

Lee's and her fellow rookies' outstanding performance in the Bulldog Kickoff (against Mississippi State and University of Mississippi) and University of Memphis did not go unnoticed, as Yellow Jackets head coach Rodney Harmon praised his players.

"I felt like we played well this weekend. We did what we needed to do today to get the win. I was very proud of our freshmen. They were first off the courts today and led us to victory," Harmon was

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GEORGIA TECH PHOTO
Carol Lee poses for an official team photo with the Georgia Tech women's tennis team.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tyce Mister, seen in this file photo competing in a beach volleyball tournament, is elected to the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association board of directors.

7 elected to NMIVA board

Former national team players Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson were among the seven individuals elected to the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's board of directors.

Nelson, Mister, Shawn Davis, Kathy Winkfield, Ryan Camacho, Mychal Omar, and Somia Quan were elected during last Monday's election. The board is expected to meet before the month ends to



elect its officers.

"Thanks to all of those who put their names up for nomination to the NMIVA. It is encouraging to see the renewed interest. I am confident that the new board will provide great leadership to move NMIVA forward—and there is lots to look forward to," outgoing NMIVA president Laurie Peterka said.

"I also want to thank

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8 classes in MRA Point Race Season



JOSEPH CHIN

Expert Open Class riders negotiate a turn during the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 5 at the Marianas Motocross Park last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Marianas Racing Association Point Race Season that will kick off this Sunday will feature competition in eight classes.

MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez said that the seven-leg series will have riders racing in the Pee wee (1 and 2) Class, Minis (1 and 2), Mini ATV (4 wheelers), Power Puff (all girls), Veterans (40 and over), Novice, Expert, and Big Boy ATV.

Each class will have two heats (morning and afternoon races) for this Sunday's kick-off at the Marianas Motocross Park. The first race will start at 10am and it will be for young

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